Dudley
CHRONICLE

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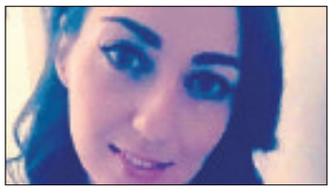
VIGIL TO REMEMBER YOUNG MOTHER AT SCENE OF CRASH



Vikki Jones – tributes from family and friends

THE family of a Dudley woman killed in a car crash near her home have spoken of their devastation at losing a 'special, caring person and a fantastic mother'.

Vikki Jones, 30, was driving in Wood Road, Lower Gornal, just after 10pm on September 22 when her car was involved in a collision with a white BMW. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

A heartfelt tribute issued by Ms Jones' family reads: "On September 22, we lost her. We lost the most beautiful, caring, loving, funny, kind hearted person you could ever wish to meet. She was a beautiful, strong, caring and loving person who had a massive heart and a love for life.

"She lived for her family, especially her daughter. She was a fantastic mother, and a brilliant role model."

Thanks were also offered to the residents of Wood Road and the Children's Ward at Russells Hall Hospital, who looked after Ms Jones' daughter following the crash.

A candlelit vigil will be held at the scene on Friday evening at 9.45pm. There will be readings before a two-minute silence at 10pm.

A 21-year-old man arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving was released on police bail last week.

The fatal accident has sparked anger from residents who claim their calls for traffic calming measures have been ignored.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Our thoughts are with the family of the woman who lost her life. The circumstances of the accident are currently being investigated by police, however, as with all serious traffic incidents we will be carrying out our own investigation."

Homeless speedway club facing a major crisis

LAST RIDE FOR THE HEATHENS?

ONE of the famous names in Dudley and Black Country sport could be facing extinction.

Cradley Heathens speedway club could fold after their next two races overs problems finding a track to call home. Bosses says the future looks bleak after the Heathens have hit problems with the two clubs whose stadiums they share

The club, which compete in the National League, have had no stadium of their own since the old Dudley Wood stadium was closed and the site sold for housing more than 20 years ago. The club returned to racing in 2010 after closing 15 years earlier and currently hold their races in Wolverhampton and Birmingham. But with new owners taking over Birmingham Brummies and more fixtures set for Wolverhampton Wolves due to a league shake-up, the future of Heathens has been cast into doubt.

Club director Nigel Pearson, who has been instrumental in the club's revival, has also hinted that he could be leaving the club this winter.

Report by Jamie Brassington

Hopes

Earlier this year hopes were raised that the club could possibly get a new stadium in Oldbury but this, like earlier projects, has failed to reach fruition. This leaves track sharing as the only option if the club is to continue. In the past the club have held 'home' meetings as tracks as far away from the Black Country as Stoke-on-Trent.

Gary Patchett, who is the club's joint boss, said: "It was difficult this year but we pulled a rabbit out of the hat with the double-headers, which have been reasonably successful. But running at Birmingham isn't much fun for the supporters. We are grateful for the fact that we were able to race there, but it's hard.

"With the likelihood of new owners at Birmingham, they could be running two teams there. It may be that Perry Barr is not an option. Then we have the AGM to come and from what I'm hearing, and with Lakeside looking to return to the Premiership, they may come up with a 10-team league and four more home fixtures for Wolves. That's four more Mondays we can't have. We might be scuppered."

Club director Nigel Pearson has hinted he could leave after eight years in charge.

Heathens' fixture at Monmore stadium against Eastbourne on October 16 and the club's FAST Golden Hammer competition at Wolverhampton a week later could be the club's last.

● Bleak – page 48

Jordanne opens new museum

Mum-to-be Jordanne Whiley at the museum with Mayor and Mayoress Councillor David and Barbara Tyler

THE new Dudley Museum, featuring exhibits ranging from sporting memorabilia to ancient fossils, has been opened by wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley MBE .

The 25-year-old mother-to-be, who has won nine grand-slam titles, cut the ribbon at the museum in Tipton Road on Saturday.

It includes the current Wimbledon double champion's tennis kit and shirts and England caps that were awarded to Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards.

Jordanne said: "I didn't know what the museum was going to be like inside. I had a tour around the place and I didn't know there was so much stuff here. My favourite part is probably the Roman section with the coins."

POLICE

Search for Natalie at nature reserve

THE search for missing Natalie Putt, who disappeared 14 years ago, has taken a new turn with police looking through woodland close to where she lived.

Detectives started their search of Ellowes Hall Wood in Lower Gornal on Monday after 'further credible information' was received.

Around 20 police officers were involved in the search, which was initially focused on the pools in the Cotwall End Nature Reserve. The search was expected to take two days and involves a specialist team of divers.

SPORT

New foundation in honour of Duncan

A FOUNDATION to help young people in the borough with sports training is being set up in memory of famous Dudley footballer Duncan Edwards.

The Duncan Edwards Foundation is the brainchild of Rose Cook, who wrote and directed a documentary about the England and Manchester United star, who died as a result of the Munich air disaster in 1958.

● Film premiere – page 3

BUSINESS

Health food chain opens 100th store

GRAPE Tree, the Dudley-based health food retailer, is to mark its fifth anniversary by opening its 100th store.

The Kingswinford company has become one of the UK's fastest growing retailers, opening a new outlet every two weeks.

The firm's headquarters and distribution centre on the Pensnett Trading Estate has doubled in size.

INSIDE

DOREEN, GOT A NEW DVD, AY I

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'Biggest' planning application due soon

Cavendish House, Dudley

AN 'imminent' planning application to demolish an eyesore office block will cost £100,000 and be 'the biggest ever submitted in the borough', says Dudley's council leader.

Councillor Patrick Harley says the plans to bring down Cavendish House in the town centre will be put forward any time now.

The former office block, on Trindle Road, which has sat empty for years, will be pulled down to make way for a multi-million pound retail development under the town's regeneration proposals.

It was expected the planning application would be put forward this summer but a query with the plans in relation to the planned Midland Metro tram line and its link with the bus station caused a setback.

However, Councillor Harley said that has been resolved and the scheme is back on track.

"I was told there was one line of thought that the Metro might be diverted. That might have impacted on Cavendish but it has now been confirmed that is not the case.

"I expect for the planning application to go through. It will be a huge application, probably the biggest the borough has seen. It will be a huge investment of around £100,000."

Councillor Harley says he anticipates the landmark building will be demolished next year.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for planning and redevelopment, has been told the planning application is imminent.

Avenbury bought Cavendish House, overlooking one of the major gateways into Dudley, for £800,000 at a property auction in London in 2015.

Dudley lollipop staff numbers down by third

THE number of lollipop men and women in Dudley borough has fallen by nearly a third.

Figures released under Freedom of Information shows there are 77 people employed in the crossing warden roles in Dudley this year – down from 111 in 2012.

They also show that the number of school crossings that are patrolled in the borough has plummeted from 125 in 2012 to 80 this year.

Despite this, spending on staff wages has barely changed. In 2012, 280,581 was spent on wages and overtime compared to £244,123 in 2016.

The downward trend in Dudley is mirrored by authorities across the Midlands.

The figures were unearthed by the Liberal Democrats as part of its campaign to maintain safety on roads outside schools.

Lib Dem Black Country campaigner Paul Butters said: "Four children are seriously hurt or killed while walking in the UK every day.

Vital

"School crossing are a vital service, highly valued by communities, ensuring children can cross roads near their schools safely.

"While councils have faced significant financial challenges in recent years, the safety of children should not be put at risk."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services at Dudley Council, said: "We actively work to recruit school crossing patrols however it does prove difficult to fill all the vacancies.

"High numbers of vacancies does also increase the costs of the service because of the need to bring in mobile patrols to cover key sites, but we will continue to do everything we can to fill any outstanding gaps."

Last year the council faced protests over proposals to cut nearly £400,000 from the service but the plans were later ditched.

The Vamps count down to Christmas

The Vamps will launch the festive season at Merry Hill shopping centre with a special concert

BOY band The Vamps will kick-start the countdown to Christmas at Merry Hill.

It has been announced that the group will take to the stage at an exclusive gig at the shopping centre on Saturda,y November 18.

The boys, whose hits include Can We Dance and Last Night, will be supported by X Factor star Fleur East.

A total of 400 ticket-holders will get to see The Vamps, including Bradley Simpson, from Sutton Coldfield, at the centre in Brierley Hill from 8pm.

Anyone who buys £50 worth of intu Gift Cards at the centre from this Monday will be entered into a prize draw to win one of 200 pairs of tickets, with winners drawn throughout this month.

Tickets will also be awarded to young heroes in the local area who deserve recognition for selfless acts, such as charity and community work.

UKIP's new party leader gets support from Dudley

DUDLEY politician Bill Etheridge says he is sticking with UKIP as he declared his support for the party's new leader.

The West Midlands Euro MP and councillor from Sedgley has vowed to back victorious Henry Bolton 'to the hilt' after the former policeman and army officer won last week's leadership election with 30 per cent of the vote. He became the party's fourth leader in 12 months.

Mr Bolton had been considered an outsider to replace Paul Nuttall in the UKIP hot seat. But he comfortably saw off the challenge of anti-Islam campaigner Anne Marie Waters, who came second with 21.3 per cent of the 12,915 votes cast.

Mr Etheridge was one of a number of UKIP MEPs who had threatened to quit the party if Ms Waters had won.

He said: "I am extremely relieved that Henry Bolton has won. We are now in a position as a party to look to the future in a positive light."

On his future with UKIP, he added: "I'm going nowhere. I will be backing Henry to the hilt."

Dudley UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood added: "I am extremely pleased that the membership have rejected Anne Marie Waters and Peter Whittle, who were intent on taking the party in a very unpleasant direction."

Theatre company stage My Fair Lady

BRIERLEY Hill Musical Theatre Company is presenting Lerner and Lowe's beautiful My Fair Lady from October 10 to 14 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Based on George Bernard's Shaw's unforgettable play, Pygmalion, this musical oozes class and sophistication and includes classic tunes such as I Could Have Danced All Night and I'm Getting Married in the Morning. For tickets, call 03456588095 or visit www.bhmtc.co.uk website.

Meanwhile, The Viva Musica Choir based in Stourbridge will be presenting a concert entitled The Magic of Music on October 14, at The Ruskin Centre. Tickets priced at £10 includes a glass of wine or juice, call 0121 550 5581 or 01562 883480. Visit www.viva-musica.co.uk website for more information

Store up for sale

A POUNDLAND store has gone on the market for £900,000. The building in Dudley High Street includes accommodation over four floors. It is for sale with Allsop and is due to be included in an auction on October 18. The shop is let to Poundland until 2021.

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Man accused of kidnap to appeal over extradition

A BLACK Country man accused of kidnapping a model should be extradited to Italy to face trial with his brother, a judge has ruled.

London-based model Chloe Ayling, aged 20, claims she was snatched, drugged and held hostage for six days by a group calling itself Black Death after being lured to a fake modelling shoot in Milan in July.

Lawyers for Michal Herba, from Tividale, suggested the entire case may be a 'sham' invented as a 'publicity stunt' to boost Ms Ayling's career.

But at a hearing at Westminster Magistrates Court, District, Judge Paul Goldspring said that 36-year-old should be extradited to Italy to join his brother, Lukasz Herba, 30, to face allegations they kidnapped the model before demanding a 300,000 Euro (£264,00) in ransom money.

"I have decided you should be surrendered to Italy to face trial for the kidnap," the judge told Polish-born Herba.

Following the judgment, Herba's barrister, George Hepburne Scott, announced he would appeal against the decision, meaning his client will remain in custody in the UK until the result.

Italian police claim the brothers are part of the Black Death group, which they claim sells women as sex slaves on the 'dark web' to buyers in the Middle East.

Murder of stab victim is denied

A 20-year-old man has pleaded not guilty to murdering a father-of-two who died after being stabbed.

Niron Parker-Lee is set to face trial for allegedly killing Mansoor Mahmood in Brierley Hill last October. Parker-Lee, of Blewitt Street, Pensnett, denied the murder charge at Birmingham Crown Court on Monday.

Parker-Lee, who appeared via video link from HMP Brinsford, is accused of stabbing 24-year-old Mr Mahmood in the chest on October 15. Factory worker Mr Mahmood was rushed to hospital after staggering into a takeaway restaurant but died a short time later. Parker-Lee was remanded in custody and is due to stand trial from February 5 next year.

Sensible choice

WORDSLEY Amateur Dramatic Society will present a play version of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility from October 11 to 14 at Kingswinford Methodist Church at 7.30pm. To book tickets call (01384) 353662.

Caverns and tunnels open up to paddlers

Inside Dudley's canal tunnel network

ADVENTUROUS folk will soon be able to paddle into Dudley's canal tunnels and caverns by canoe.

Previously visitors have only been able to enter the caverns thanks to barge trips run by the Dudley Canal Trust.

But now British Canoeing is offering the chance for people to paddle around four miles deep underground through the Dudley and Netherton Tunnels.

British Canoeing waterways and environment manager Chris Page said: "This is a great opportunity. We have only been allowed into the tunnels by special arrangement. It's an eight mile paddle in total, with nearly four miles underground, through caverns, caves, old mines and some of the canal network's longest tunnels.

"There's not very many places where you can do a circular canoe trip with so much underground time."

Those on the canoe route will travel along the Dudley Tunnel, connecting caverns and mines, and the Netherton Tunnel, which is 1.7 miles long.

The first canoe excursion will take place on October 21 setting off at 8.30am from the entrance of the Dudley Tunnel.

British Canoeing's Mark Harding said: "What we've done is to organise a tour of the two Black Country canals both of which are normally closed to canoe traffic. We can now do about a 13km tour starting off at the Dudley Canal Trust site by the Black Country Living Museum."

The tour is open to members of British Canoeing and the public with previous canoe experience. Contact Mark.Harding@acivico.co.uk or stourbridgearmcanoeclub@gmail.com

Benefits cheat is seen walking freely on video

VIDEO footage ensured a benefits cheat from Brierley Hill, who had claimed he could barely walk, was caught by fraud investigators.

Stephen Mountford, from Milton Street, was spotted by investigators from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) walking his grandchildren to and from school.

He had racked up an overpayment of £21,900.80 despite claiming he could barely walk.

Footage emerged of the 53-year-old strolling along roads without his walking aids.

The court heard how he had been claiming Disability Living Allowance (DLA) from October 16, 2010, and May 3, 2016.

However, in 2015 he underwent medical treatment at Dudley Guest Hospital, allowing him to exercise more and walk unaided, but didn't inform the DWP about the change.

Dudley Magistrates heard on how Mountford had twice a day been walking his grandchildren to and from school – over a distance of 1.2 miles – when his car was out of action.

The court heard that Mountford, who ad no previous convictions, suffered from depression and spondylitis.

Suspended

Mountford was given a 24-week prison sentence, which was suspended for a year, alongside a rehabilitation order. He was also told to pay £100 in court costs and a victim surcharge of £115.

A DWP spokesman said: "Only a small minority of benefit claimants are dishonest but cases like this show how we are rooting out the unscrupulous minority who are cheating the system and diverting taxpayers' money from those who really need it.

"We are determined to find those we suspect of abusing the welfare system by following up tip-offs, undertaking surveillance and working with councils.

"Deliberately not informing us of a change in condition that may affect claim is a crime. Don't wait for fraud investigators, tell us of a change now."

Anyone who suspects someone of fraudulently claiming benefits can call the National Benefit Fraud Hotline on 0800 854440.

Stephen Mountford, above, was in court after CCTV footage, above right, showed him walking unaided

Duncan film gets Old Trafford premiere

AROUND 200 people attended the premiere of a short film telling the story of Dudley-born football legend Duncan Edwards at the home of Manchester United, Old Trafford, on Sunday.

The screening of The Boy Who Had it All, made on location in Dudley, was shown to fans.

Edwards, 21, was the eighth member of the famous 'Busby Babes' United team to die as a result of the Munich air crash in 1958, which claimed the lives of 23 people.

The 18-minute film looks at the childhood in Dudley of the gifted footballer, who played for Manchester United and England. It was screened on what would have been Edwards' 81st birthday.

Black Country filmmaker Marcus Distant, who said: "The screening was absolutely amazing. I have dreamt this could happen one day."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Offices plan for town centre pub

A LANDMARK former pub in Dudley town centre is set to be turned into offices.

An application has been lodged to make changes to the old Crown Hotel, a prominent building in Wolverhampton Street which features a clock tower.

Developers will need special permission to change the use of the building as it is a grade II listed.

The property is owned by Dudley Council and has been used by its new heritage and regeneration team. It is set to become self-contained offices, under the plans which have been submitted to council planning officers.

Row after school bans Sikh bangle

AN eight-year-old boy has been banned from wearing a Sikh bangle to school as it is considered to be jewellery and against uniform policy.

Kaiden Singh was told by teachers at Summerhill Primary School in Tipton he would not be allowed to wear his Kara, a silver bracelet worn by Sikhs as a symbol of faith.

Kaiden's parents and The Sikh Federation insist the pupil has a legal right to wear the bangle. Headteacher Kerry Rochester said his parents, who she will be meeting, signed an agreement accepting the uniform policy.

Burst pipe hits around 100 homes

AROUND 100 homes had their water supply cut or reduced on Sunday due to a burst pipe. The disruption lasted several hours.

Engineers fixed the problem after tracing it toa burst pipe in Alderdale Avenue, affecting the water pressure in homes in Himley, Swindon and Gospel End.

Severn Trent spokeswoman Sarah-Jayne O'Kane said: "We want to say sorry to anyone who lost their water supply. The pipe burst early in the morning and we got a team out to site as quickly as possible."

Disabled toilets added to community centre

NEW disabled toilets have opened at a community centre in Wordsley.

The facilities have been added to Wordsley Community Centre thanks to money from a National Lottery grant and a fundraising drive by the Wordsley and District Community Association.

Association chairman Janet Blakeway said: "This h will ensure all our members are able to keep coming to our thriving centre."

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No joke for Jim on murder claim

AUSSIE comic Jim Jefferies brought his hit TV show to the streets of Birmingham, which he told his American audience was the murder capital of the UK. The film sees him with officers from West Midlands Police.

He joined Insp Matt Minton and Sgt Leanne Chapman and the film sees the pair stop and detain suspected criminals. Jefferies has been vocal in his criticism of US gun control.

He said Birmingham was the 'murder capital of the UK' with 13 homicides in 2016. His film compares it with Birmingham, Alabama, with a quarter of the population but eight times more murders – 104 – in 2016.

Students are put on right towpath

ENGINEERING students kicked off the new term by sprucing up a canal towpath.

The students from City of Wolverhampton College, who are studying for level two and three diplomas in mechanical engineering, helped improve the Lichfield and Hatherton Canal.

They spread hardcore along a half-mile stretch of the path, as part of an ongoing restoration scheme, as well as visiting the canal aqueduct crossing the M6 Toll road.

College bosses said the project was organised to show students the types of work involved in civil engineering projects, as well as develop team work.

Bears to go at hospital auction

THE decorated bears from this summer's Big Sleuth art trail in Birmingham and the Black Country are being sold at auction. Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge is hosting the sale on October 12. It will raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The project's predecessor The Big Hoot, raised £500,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital in 2015 and The Big Sleuth is aiming to beat that.

Bidding for each bear is expected to start in the region of £6,000.

Firm's sales bounce back after its move

A FIRM specialising in rubber products and polymer sheeting has increased sales by seven per cent.

MacLellan Rubber moved from Neachells Lane, Wednesfield, to Planetary Road Industrial Estate in Willenhall last year. The 146-year-old business had been at the Wednesfield site for 12 years. Director Andrew Onions said: "I'm delighted that our performance has bucked the trend."

Violent and sexual offences on the rise

VIOLENT and sexual offences has risen by more than 15 per cent across Dudley borough over the last year.

There were 246 more offences with 1,716 violent and sexual offences committed between July 2016 and June this year compared with 1,470 offences between in July 2015 and June 16 last year.

Council chiefs have called for action in response to the 'concerning' trend.

Councillor Rachel Harris said: "It's concerning this trend is rising, particularly at a time when we seem to have less of a presence on a day-to-day basis.

"Given the rise in reported violent crimes, I am concerned people may not be reporting other types of crime at a time when they really should be reporting any incident of anti-social behaviour.

"If we're not going to have a clear picture then we should put pressure on to try and change the way it's being policed."

Dudley borough has seen on average five violent and sexual offences a day since July 2016. In June this year 179 such offences were committed comparing to 113 in January. Overall crime rates in the borough have seen an increase over the past year with May 2017 seeing the highest amount of crimes at 789.

Police and crime commissioner David Jamieson said: "The rise in violent and sexual offences is deeply worrying. I am cutting down on bureaucracy to make sure officers are able to spend time tackling crime rather than filling in forms. I have been able to restart recruitment of officers and PCSOs."

Bedsit landlord told to pay out £340,000

By Marion Brennan

A ROGUE landlord has been ordered to pay more than £340,000 after illegally converting several houses in Dudley into bedsits.

Birmingham-based Latif Rehman, who earns £150,000 a year from rents, has been punished after ignoring council notices to undo the work.

A judge described Rehman as 'a significant player' in the industry, who knew that he was breaching planning regulations. Rehman, 58, received £278,000 in tenants' benefits from Dudley Council on three properties in Netherton and one in Wall Heath.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he continued converting some houses into flats and bedsits even after being told to stop the work as he did not have planning permission.

Ignored

Prosecuting, Mr Mark Jackson said enforcement notices were served on Rehamn in relation to two adjoining properties in Cole Street, and one in Northfield Road, in Netherton, and a fourth in Wolverhampton Road, Wall Heath. But in each case he ignored the notice and continued to rent them out.

The two Cole Street houses had each been turned into five flats and the other two both into six. Mr Jackson said: "The local authority has bent over backwards to afford the defendant every opportunity to comply with the enforcement notices. He was given extension after extension and used the time to obtain more rent."

Rehman, of Lordswood Road, Harborne, pleaded guilty to four charges of failing to comply with enforcement notices. He was ordered to pay Dudley Council compensation of £278,028, fined a total of £40,000 and ordered to pay £25,898 prosecution costs.

Ex-police station on the market for £450k

The former Kingswinford police station on the A491 Moss Grove is now up for sale for offers from £450,000

A FORMER police station in Dudley borough has been put up for sale. Kingswinford's old police station, which closed in the summer, has been put on the market for £450,000.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has appointed Birmingham independent commercial property agency KWB to market the site, which sits on a prominent position near the A491 at Moss Grove.

West Midlands Police last year confirmed 13 police stations in the Black Country were closing as part of £8.6 million cuts.

The former station in Kingswinford is being marketed as a potential family home or as a potential site to be redeveloped for residential use.

Kingswinford North and Wall Heath ward councillor Dave Tyler, who once worked at the building as a police officer, said: "I had some happy times there as a young officer.

"But times move on and efficiencies within the police service have meant that certain properties have had to fall by the wayside.

"I do really hope whatever happens to it, it enhances the quality of Kingswinford town centre."

Talks over revamp of High Street shops centre

A MAJOR redevelopment of a shopping centre in Dudley town centre could be back on the cards after crunch talks were set between the owners and council bosses.

Plans for the Trident Centre in Dudley have been in the pipeline for months but were set back in March when the owners took a U-turn after a row with the council over a 'lack of dialogue'.

At the time Dudley Council was run by Labour but now under a Conservative administration a new meeting has been arranged as the redevelopment proposals look set to be revived

Dudley Council will meet the owners 'in a few weeks' and a planning application could be submitted for the site if talks prove successful.

Council leader Patrick Harley said he was optimistic a deal would be struck.

Councillor Harley believes owners, Atlantis Property, want to create larger shops with bigger shopping space and give the site a makeover. He anticipates the plans to involve a 'substantial investment'.

He said: "We have got to see what the owners will be proposing but I would certainly hope plans will be put forward. It is more than likely a possibility that a redevelopment of the site will go ahead, but it is down to them and for us to see what the plans are.

"I believe a meeting has been arranged between them and our regeneration team in a few weeks."

The Trident Centre, on Dudley High Street, has been described as having 'considerable redevelopment potential' in the Dudley Area Action Plan, published by the council.

Remembrance festival with song

THE annual Dudley Festival of Remembrance is being held in Dudley Town Hall on November 9, from 7.30pm.

Kingswinford's male voice choir The Gentlemen Songsters and Dudley Council are organising the popular event in aid of The Royal British Legion.

It will feature a service of dedication remembering those lost in conflict, followed by entertainment provided by The Gentlemen Songsters, Sovereign Brass and Lutley Community Voices.

Tickets are £5 and further information is available online at www.gsmvc.org.uk or boroughhalls.co.uk/dudley-festival-of-remembrance.html or call the ticket hotline on 01746 763850.

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Traders in call for an hour's more free parking

BUSINESS leaders are calling for permanent two-hour free parking in council-run car parks in Halesowen after a trial period ended.

Dudley Council brought in two-hours free parking on council car parks in April but the time limit has gone down to one-hour from Sunday.

Halesowen Business Improvement District (BID) has written to the council asking for the two hours of free parking to stay because it has helped local businesses.

Wayne Edwards, chairman of the Halesowen BID, said: "Businesses across Halesowen have benefitted from the two-hour free parking trial. To reduce this allocation to one hour is simply not good enough.

"We wish to work with the council to obtain a longer duration of free parking and it will remain our highest priority until we succeed."

A spokesman for Dudley Council said the parking initiative came into effect on April 24 for car parks also in Dudley, Brierley Hill and Sedgley.

But, from Sunday, parking in the four towns will be reduced to one hour, but the initiative will be extended for car parks in Stourbridge and Kingswinford.

The BID has also been working to improve security in Halesowen to benefit traders and other business people. The group is speaking with police about high levels of crime.

Show looks at the life of Vera Lynn

A SHOW about the life of 'the Forces Sweetheart' Dame Vera Lynn is coming to Brierley Hill Civic Hall later this month for a matinee show.

Lorrie Brown, who has been performing a Vera Lynn tribute show for more than 25 years, embarked on a UK tour to mark the star's 100th birthday this year. Sincerely Yours. The Vera Lynn Story will be at the Brierley Hill venue on October 24 at 2.30pm. It will explore her life before and during the Second World War and will feature her hits, including White Cliffs of Dover and We'll Meet Again

In 2013, Lorrie was named by the Agents' Association as the UK's best Vera Lynn tribute act. Tickets are £15 available on (01384) 573381. See www.veralynntribute.eu website.

Beer tap takeover

A STOURBRIDGE town centre bar is holding a 'tap takeover' night with a Birmingham brewery. Barbridge, in Victoria Passage, will be offering craft beers from Burning Soul Brewery on October 26. There will also be a DJ.

Flick knife thug is put behind bars

A TEENAGER who stabbed a 19-year-old man at Merry Hill shopping centre has been locked up for eight years.

Ronan Parker was 'looking for trouble' at around 11.15am on July 8 when he barged through a group – two men and two women – walking in the opposite direction at the shopping centre, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 19-year-old defendant turned to stare at them, prompting an angry exchange of words that ended with a challenge to go outside for a fight, explained Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Mason Smith removed his shirt as he and the other man from the group were followed by Parker, whom one of the young women saw remove a knife and hide it behind his back. She tried to warn Mr Smith but he threw a punch before Parker stabbed him once, cutting into the spleen.

The kitchen porter fled in to the nearby Marks and Spencer store pursued by Smith but gave the injured man the slip.

Arrested

He pulled up his hood and walked towards the exit but was spotted by an off-duty policeman who followed him outside and the attacker was arrested. A flick knife with a four-inch blade used in the stabbing was discovered.

The defendant claimed that a member of the group – not Mr Smith – had a knuckle duster and one was later found near the entrance to the shopping centre.

Mr Smith was rushed to hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and discharged five days afterwards. He told police: 'I thought I was going to die'.

Mr Robert Cowley, defending, said Parker had carried a knife 'for protection' since being beaten with a baseball bat by a gang 12 months earlier.

The lawyer added that the defendant had been rovoked.

Parker from Dixons Green Road, Dudley pleaded guilty to wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and was given eight years detention in a Young Offenders Institution.

Hospital takes on new staff to tackle shortage

ALMOST 100 new nurses, midwives and other medical workers have been hired at Russells Hall Hospital to tackle staff shortages.

The trust that runs the hospital has hired 35 members of staff in just one month as a result of three recruitment events.

The events, which took place on August 24, September 8 and September 20, saw nurses, operating department practitioner's and allied health professionals – which can include therapists and radiographers – taken on board.

It comes as 60 nurses and midwives were taken on in addition at the start of August – with 38 nursing graduates, 12 children's nurses and 10 midwives hired.

Dudley Council chiefs have praised the trust for doing a 'sound' job following a disappointing £19,000 trip to the Philippines last year to interview 115 nurses when just three were hired.

Grip

Health and Wellbeing councillor Rachel Harris said: "This is great news for the trust and it's very re-assuring for residents and patients that the trust is now managing to get a grip on bringing staff numbers up to the level that we expect."

Staffing levels at the hospital had not been at a safe level last year.

This was due to recruitment struggles, sickness and intense A&E pressure. It sparked an desperate search to fill vacancies, including efforts to hire overseas.

But now Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust Interim chief nurse Siobhan Jordan said recruitment was picking up.

She said: "We are delighted at the success of our most recent recruitment events and we will continue to host more in the future.

"We are exploring many different opportunities to attract people to work in Dudley such as job fairs and other events and we are looking to work with the Prince's Trust.

"We hope to attract fantastic home-grown talent we know is out there."

Club bounces back as mayor joins in

Mayor of Dudley Dave Tyler, with (left) Sandy Jones, of Wombourne, and June Barnett, of Netherton

MAYOR of Dudley Councillor took part in a fitness class when he visited Quarry Bank Community Centre in Brierley Hill.

The mayor had been invited to the Bounce Back to Health and Happiness club and he was a willing volunteer.

Managing director Sandy Jones said: "The mayor spent all morning with us and he joined in with the exercises ,which was really great."

Mrs Jones opened the club, funding it herself, following the closure of Age UK Springboard Activity Centre last December. which left hundreds of elderly residents without a place to go. That centre was axed after funding was pulled by the Big Lottery and Dudley Council.

Mrs Jones said: "Myself and my colleagues were made redundant. I decided to use my little bit of redundancy and decided to start up my own centre. It started on January 9 and now we're building on a client basis of almost 200 people and 16 volunteers."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Groups urged to apply for grants

COMMUNITY groups and charities in Dudley have been urged to take advantage of a new grant.

Bluebird Care Dudley is making available its first ever community grant worth £250 to benefit charities and any other community projects in the borough. Applications will be accepted from charities and voluntary organisations in the community. The one that can best demonstrate a need for additional support will be helped.

Nicola Witt, owner of Bluebird Care Dudley said Bluebird was passionate about supporting community initiatives. To apply call (01384) 297839 or email dudley@bluebirdcare.co.uk

Artist showcases work at The Portal

A SELF-TAUGHT artist is showing his work at an exhibition in Dudley.

Phil Sedgley is displaying his paintings, mostly landscapes, at the Waterside Gallery at Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust's visitor centre, the Portal, until November 17.

Art has been a hobby for Mr Sedgley, from Stourbridge, since he was in his teens. Since retiring from his job as an administrator last year, he has been able to spend more time at his easel. A previous exhibition, entitled Some You Just Might Like, was held at Himley Hall.

Fantasy author launches new ale

A FANTASY author will be at a book signing in Birmingham where he will also be unveiling a new beer he has helped to brew in the Black Country.

Stephen Aryan was due to be signing his new book Mageborn at the Waterstones shop in Birmingham city centre yesterday (Wednesday) at 6.30pm.

He visited Fownes Brewery in Upper Gornal recently to create the craft ale called Mage.

The West Midlands-based author's novel is the first of a new trilogy called Age of Dread.

Halloween boat trips into the canal tunnels

SPOOKY boat trips into tunnels and caverns under Dudley are being organised for Halloween.

Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust is running the family trips from October 27 to 31.

Groovy UV Entertainments Company is creating glow-in-the-dark puppets for the trips that last 45 minutes to an hour. They can be booked at dudleycanal trust.org.uk or by calling 0121 557 6265.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Phones OK surely if you are not mobile

DESPITE stiff new penalties, more than 16 million motorists admit to still using their mobile phones while driving, according to shock new figures from the RAC.

Well that's not strictly true. Delving a little deeper, the figure actually includes seven million who only use their phones while their cars are stationary.

The RAC says it is immaterial whether the car is moving or stood still in traffic. But it does make a difference, doesn't it? Because you can't hurt anyone if you are not moving.

And given the authorities' fondness for digging up roads and shutting motorways, is it really surprising some will text their work to say traffic is at a standstill?

There is no excuse for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving but the law should show a bit of common sense when it comes to people in stationary vehicles. And many will still risk a £200 fine if the alternative is an angry boss wanting to know why they didn't tell them they would be late.

❒❒❒

TWITTER is thinking of doubling the number of characters people can use in their messages. Which means if trials are successful, trolls will have a whole 280 characters to spew their venom. And Donald Trump will be able to rile twice as many megalomaniacs into nuclear war. What's not to like?

❒❒❒

TALKING of internet trolls, new research shows 87 per cent of MPs suffered some sort of abuse in the run-up to the last election. It's tempting to say this is not nearly enough, but some of the stories suggest this goes way beyond the harmless heckling of a vibrant democracy.

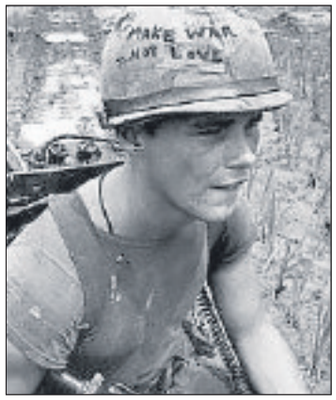
Labour's Diane Abbott seems to have suffered most, experiencing racist and sexist abuse nobody should endure.

I've never understood why people get so het up about politics, it's a bit like brawling over which brand of margarine tastes best. But some people can no longer discuss economics or immigration without the sort of tribalism traditionally reserved for Millwall away games.

Perhaps Miss Abbott should have a word with Laura Pidcock, the 29-year-old Corbynite MP who described her political opponents as "the enemy", and said she would never be friends with a Conservative. Hopefully one day she will realise that disagreeing with someone is no reason to hate them. MPs can hardly expect people to be nice to them when they can't be nice to each other.

Pros and cons of life with technology and capitalism

Corbyn's nationalisation plans. Should they include insurance companies?



The Vietnam War, remembered in a 10-part series on BBC4, recommended by Rhodes

Sian Gibson in Car Share, who kept using a grandfather's funeral to get a day off work

Droning on about insurance rip-offs

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

SCIENTISTS report this has been a bad year for butterflies. Which we all understand means a shortage of butterflies. "A bad year for wasps" has an entirely different meaning.

RESEARCH at Nottingham University suggests the winter-flu jab is more effective if you're in a happy frame of mind when you get it. This may reinforce your belief in the awesome power of the mind over body. On the other hand, you may take the view that a vaccine whose efficacy depends on how happy you feel must be a pretty feeble sort of vaccine.

AS you may be aware, I am no great fan of drones, those irritating mini-aircraft that snoop over our gardens on summery, sunbathing days. But the drone seems to have transformed the long-running war between police and those scumbags of the countryside, hare coursers. With a drone in the air, the cops can detect this sadistic activity, identify the vehicles involved and direct patrol cars to nick them. In a recent incident in Norfolk, a police drone traced four men; they were questioned and their 4x4 vehicle was seized. Coursers aim to terrorise and kill the innocent and beautiful brown hare. How fitting that, from the moment they hear the drone above them, they now know they are the prey, the predator has them in its sights and there is no escape. Poetic justice.

OH, Jeremy Corbyn. What is this eagerness to nationalise gas, water, electricity and the railways when the real scoundrel, the biggest, nastiest example of the unacceptable face of capitalism, grows fatter by the day? It comprises dozens of companies selling virtually identical products, ripping us off with yearly price hikes way in excess of inflation, treating loyal customers like suckers and luring us on with massive advertising campaigns which we, naturally, pay for. I refer to the British insurance industry. The sooner it is nationalised and run by the people for the people, the better. You can understand the wicked Tories regarding the industry as untouchable but surely Labour has a view?

THE Vietnam War (BBC4) is a masterful 10-part series on a conflict unlike any other. It was so vivid, so violent and so endlessly filmed that it became part of our culture throughout the 1960s. Every evening's news brought more frightful images as we became familiar with places like Da Nang and Khe Sanh. And then, quite suddenly in 1975, it was all over and no-one, least of all the Americans, wanted to talk about it. Vietnam became the let-it-be-forgotten war. In 1992 I was on a press trip to Saigon. For us older hacks it was a city that, thanks to all the TV coverage, we half-knew. See? Here's the US embassy and over there's the presidential palace where NVA tanks smashed down the gates in the closing minutes of the war. But for the younger journalists it was just a holiday destination, a warm, friendly place with cheap taxis and great food. Re-visiting the war is long overdue, if only because it gives us a sharp lesson in how the best of intentions can lead you to fight the wrong enemy and drop blazing napalm on children in the name of democracy.

I HAVE tiny, lingering doubts about the claim that Britain is in for a series of major storms between now and Christmas. The forecasting companies may well be proved right. However, they are apparently using data from as far back as 1940 to predict what may be coming. Looking for patterns in the weather? Why do I keep thinking of roulette wheels?

IN a world riddled with internet scams, a good grasp of English remains our best defence. This, from yet another fake BT email: "This restriction will be disabled intermediately we confirm upgrade successful." Make a note of this one. Intermediately.

A TEACHER in Kent resigned after being accused of inventing a sick partner in order to get time off work. It makes you wonder how many ailing relatives, invoked for compassionate leave, actually exist. Does anyone check? If I remember rightly, in Peter Kay's comedy Car Share, Kayleigh (Sian Gibson) admits having attended her granddad's funeral three times.

THANKS in no small part to you lot and your contributions, this column has been shortlisted in the 2017 Midland Media Awards. Well done, all.

TALKING POINT

At pains to accept age-old problem

A FEW years ago, as an Express & Star journalist approaching the 40th birthday milestone, I was asked to write a first-person article on the pros and cons of notching up my fifth decade on this planet.

It had the usual comic references to putting on weight, losing hair in some places and gaining it in others, ha, ha, very funny...

Okay, now move on 12 years, and what do we find? Another version of me, admittedly personal circumstances have changed, workplace roles altered, a new wife, and pain, everywhere.

One day, it would be nice, just for one day, I'm not asking much, to be completely devoid of pain!

The deterioration of the physical form as humans cross the half century threshold was not something anyone told me about.

As I sit here in discomfort, I have pain in my neck, back, left forearm, fingers of both hands, left knee, and right heel/lower leg. And that is before I try and stand up and get my weary body into motion to cross the room towards the kettle to make a cup of tea.

I am married to a lady who has a catalogue of symptoms, women do seem to get it much worse. I only have three prescription drugs to take every day, she has a drawer-full!

Shoes make all the difference to getting through the day too. Who on earth was around when I was 30-odd to warn me of such required considerations? If I go for the cool-looking flat American style black hi-top sneakers, I believe they are called – you know, like the ones Will Smith wears in I, Robot – within yards of walking I go through the Charles Darwin-inspired evolution of humans chart, only backwards. Starting off with the upright homosapien, ending up with chimpanzee.

I arrive at whatever destination it might be a crumpled mess and no matter what I do, I yearn for a motorised scooter to take me back home again. Perhaps that is why we see so many of them around these days – poor choice of footwear!

It seems that home comforts are needed more and more as we get older. Apart from missing my slippers on a recent holiday, I found it almost impossible to get to sleep at night in a strange bed without my beloved pillow.

I can only assume that the pains that I feel will become more tolerable when I hit the big 6-0, as I will either have so many that only the big pains will be noticeable, or perhaps the Alzheimer's will mean that I am not aware of them at all.

GRAEME ANDREW

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Concentrate on driving not the cyclists

YET again another angry letter from an ill informed driver to fuel the anti-cyclist movement. Why oh why do some people have to make it a 'them & us' battleground.

Doesn't he understand there are a large number of safe road users who are both cyclists and motorists and good road sense should prevail for all.

The author of this rant starts his piece with the story of a woman cyclist who recently lost her life but shows no respect whatsoever at this tragic loss of life by instead mithering on about the choice of clothing colour for his local cycling group. It's like saying motorists shouldn't be allowed black cars – come on, get real ! In any case, in my experience, most club cyclists riding in groups have a variety of brightly coloured garments and ride leaders are always clearly marked. Helmets are also obligatory in most cases and lights in use when required.

The fact most shorts & trousers are black is down to the manufacturers but surely unless you are driving a Westfield or Caterham Super 7 or other equivalent low-slung sports car, you will see the top half of riders as well.

Nowadays there seems to be a growing trend for those who prefer four wheels to vent their fury. Cyclists are regularly cut up, abused, shouted and sworn at and this is not acceptable in what should be a mutually respectful and caring society.

With the utmost of respect can I suggest the Kingswinford shopping driver starts to concentrate more on his safe driving and road positioning than the backsides of cyclists minding their own business enjoying the fresh air!

JUSTIN OSBORNE
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Is the rush to deliver dangerous?

IT seems that recently hardly a week passes without tragic news of a fatal accident somewhere on our motorways and dual-carriageways, often involving commercial vehicles.

I cannot help but wonder if our buy-now get-now internet culture might be a significant factor in such tragic events. It is commonplace for internet sites to promise delivery by a specific time on a specific day. Such practices might easily cause delivery drivers to take risks in order to meet the deadline, especially where bonus payments are involved.

I think it is time to introduce a new traffic offence, that of encouraging or inciting dangerous driving.

Whether it might be teenagers' inciting a friend or relative to drive like a maniac, or a boss behind a desk demanding unreasonable delivery times. They should all face the consequences.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

Thanks to hospital and ambulance staff

JUST like to say a massive thank you to all at the emergency care department at Russells Hall Hospital. I had to attend there on September 4 owing to an accident at work involving my neck. When I arrived the waiting room was absolutely full with more people turning up by the minute.

The way that the staff dealt with it all is beyond me, but they did. Believe me those guys are brilliant, considering the workload and what they're up against.

I can't remember all their names but Jo in the X-ray department was fantastic, as were everyone else, the receptionists, the doctor I saw, all very professional, caring and helpful. Also what a fantastic job Nat and Natalie and all the rest of the crew do on the BBC series 'Ambulance'.

LEE THOMAS
Pensnett

HS2 – sort out NHS instead

IF Councillor Doug James thinks that the staggering £55 billion (and rising) cost of HS2 is money well spent he must be living in cloud cuckoo land. With the NHS, police and other public services badly needing extra resources, spending money on this ludicrous project is bordering on insanity. Theresa May does nothing about it. It is possible that the Conservative Party hierarchy have decided to keep her in power so she can be blamed when big business tells the Tories that it will not accept a hard-line Brexit.

On the subject on the NHS, I wonder which jobsworth decided that the way to help Russells Hall Hospital with its waiting time problem is to fine them £250,000? You would hope MP Mike Wood, whose life was saved by the excellent care that he received at the hospital, would intervene to sort out this nonsense.

PETER SIMPSON
Dudley

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Highlights include; Noel Fitzpatrick Live (presented by The Supervet, Professor Noel Fitzpatrick), Top Cats Competition sponsored by Hill's and GCCF and SuperDogs Live (presented by TV's Michaela Strachan).

There will be kids "Teepee" talks and animal handling sessions, the Secret Rabbit Garden and more than 90 educational talks and live performances.

With theatres in each show zone, visitors will receive top tips and free pet care advice from experts.

The SuperTheatre will also play host to live performances from the canine stars of SuperDogs Live, presented by TV's Michaela Strachan, including an opening performance by Britain's Got Talent Finalists Lucy Heath and Trip Hazard. The popular School 4 Dogs arena sponsored by Pets at Home will feature live training demonstrations

For tickets visit www.thenationalpetshow.com website.

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer this question
Who is the show sponsor?
Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and email address (a MUST) to Pet Show Competition, Chronicle Series (Editorial) 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES, closing date Thursday, October 12, 2017. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision final.

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GET SAVING ON ENERGY BILLS IN PREPARATION FOR WINTER WITH DUDLEY'S BIG SWITCH

With autumn soon taking its hold Dudley Borough residents are being encouraged to get saving on their energy bills before winter bites.

Dudley Council is urging people to sign up to its latest Big Switch energy switching scheme. The scheme offers residents market leading deals on energy which are not available elsewhere. Residents who have registered at previous auctions have saved up to £300 on their home energy bills, so it's well worth getting registered.

The Big Switch brings people together to reduce their energy bills by switching their energy suppliers collectively. The more people who register the better the deals on offer, as it is based upon the bulk buying concept.

The deals offered by the Big Switch are not available elsewhere, and it has been recently reported that up to sixty percent of top energy deals are not available on the standard switching sites. To get the best deal it is well worth registering.

In recent month's five of the 'Big six' energy providers have announced price hikes for people on standard variable rate tariffs, with British Gas announcing a 12.5 percent rise in its electricity prices. The majority of people are on standard variable tariffs (sixty-six percent according to Ofgem) and can potentially therefore make significant savings by signing up to switch.

Since the scheme began in June 2013 the collective savings made by borough residents has topped half a million pounds.

The latest Big Switch has launched this week. To take advantage of the cut price rates offered, people are encouraged to call 0300 555 2345 to register, or you can register online at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch. People will need to have their current tariff details and fuel usage (shown in the most recent bill) to hand.

The scheme is open to all householders, including people living in rented accommodation, those with a prepayment meter and people with a fuel debt of up to £500 or less.

Cllr Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said:

"Our Big Switch energy auctions have proved extremely popular over the last few years with thousands signing up to take part and saving hundreds of pounds on their home energy bills. The deals offered through the scheme are market leading, so people will be getting real value for money. With winter on its way now is the ideal time to be registering to save, as well as keeping warm and well at home."

To find out more call Dudley Council Plus on **0300 555 2345** or visit **www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch**.

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Black Country queen out to solve eternal dilemma

Review
Doreen's Black Country DVD
By Diane Davies

REGIONAL treasure and self-styled Queen of the Black Country Doreen Tipton is on a mission!

Perhaps surprisingly, the Lazy Cow takes it upon herself to answer the eternal Black Country dilemma – where is the Black Country?

As she points out, no two Black Country folk will ever agree on where or what it is. So in her latest DVD, Doreen sets out on her Grand Tour to reveal her very own Black Country.

Told as only a true Black Country wench can, and with complete irreverence, heart-felt fondness and lashings of Black Country humour, Doreen offers her own unique take on its people, places and history.

With a frisky tapir at Dudley Zoo

Doreen's Black Country DVD cover

Butcher

Black Country characters making it onto the DVD include Colin the chatty 82-year-old underwear salesman at Brierley Hill market, fellow trader 'Bruce the Butcher of Brierley Hill' and dancing 73-year-old 'apprentice' Ken. There is Simon the canal man/Peaky Blinders actor in Dudley, Ade the Wing Chun expert at Priory Park Boxing Club, Walsall town crier Cyril Richardson and even the Express & Star's own archivist Adam Phillips.

Regularly waving the Black Country flag, the Grand Tour takes in The Nether Regions (!), Dud-lay; Walsall, Wul-vrampton and, of course, a home-coming at her beloved Tipton.

The gems of the Black Country to get a 'royal' visit include Dudley Castle and Zoo, Priory Park boxing club where we discover Doreen can pack a punch, The Dog House antiques shop in Walsall, Molineux, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Dunstall Park, Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory and the Express & Star where she gives editor Keith Harrison a grilling.

Doreen interviews Tipton Terror and Wolves legend Steve Bull

A highlight for many will be the 'rare interview' with Wolves 'leg-end' Steve Bull who also hails from Tipton and made his acting debut in Doreen – The Movie. Much of the DVD will resonate with the proud Black Country people. Whether she answers the dilemma or not, her tour does highlight the region's kindred spirit, sense of community and humour.

This is a must-watch for anyone proud of the Black Country, is interested in its heritage, or who simply enjoys a bit of a loff. It is now available at the website www.doreen.tv

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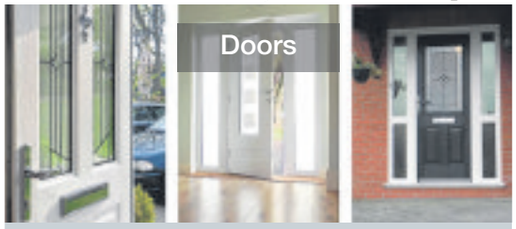

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Region's 'time to shine' say mayor

WEST Midlands Mayor Andy Street is spreading the 'success story' of the West Midlands at this week's Conservative Party conference in Manchester, declaring: "This is our time to shine."

The Conservative mayor was pushing the region's claims as a model for the rest of the UK and said the time had come for the West Midland to look beyond the UK and Europe and bring in global investment.

Mr Street said the region had 'outperformed' other areas of the country – including conference host city Manchester – and insisted his focus was on competing on a global stage in the post-Brexit world.

He proclaimed the West Midlands was ready to become a beacon of economic growth, adding: "The message I want to get across at the conference is that this is our time to shine.

"The West Midlands is poised to deliver, not just for its own citizens, but for the country. I want to make it very clear to the Government that we will deliver They still control some of the investment that we need, so I want the West Midlands to be first and foremost in their minds."

And the region's Commonwealth Games bid was a big chance to further hog the spotlight, he added.

Health crisis looms as funds threatened by missed targets

A CATASTROPHIC winter crisis is looming for social care with £150 million of vital funding under threat, council chiefs have warned.

A letter signed by leaders of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Staffordshire councils has been sent to Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt pleading with him to help avert disaster.

The council bosses say 'unachievable targets' have been set for local authorities to try to reduce the delays in people leaving hospital – known as bed-blocking – to just 3.5 per cent.

But each council is set lose millions of pounds each in its Better Care Fund for failing to hit the targets.

The letter says: "NHS England's position is that those local authorities who cannot meet the target will not have their BCF approved and will therefore not receive the cash transfer from the NHS to protect adult social care. This is funding of around £150 million in the West Midlands on which we depend to fund a range of essential services. Without this funding services cannot be sustained.

"With winter approaching this will have a catastrophic impact on local people, leading to a serious crisis."

Geopark bid gets a showcase display

CAMPAIGNERS hoping to get global recognition for Dudley and the Black Country's geology now have a new exhibition to show its importance.

A themed gallery illustrating the Black Country's geological history has opened as part of the new Dudley Museum, which was unveiled at the weekend as part of the Dudley Archives in Tipton Road.

The Black Country is bidding to become a UNESCO Global Geopark. These are geological areas of international significance which are given protection. A total of 45 geosites will make up the park, spread across the Black Country region. The Black Country is a place where coral seas, swamps, deserts, icy wastelands, mines and furnaces have created a unique landscape.

Katherine's comedy night is set to sell out

Katherine Ryan brings her Glitter Room tour to Dudley

CANADIAN comic Katherine Ryan looks set to be performing in front of a full house at Dudley Town Hall next Saturday, October 14. Tickets have been in demand for the TV comedian and presenter's Glitter Room tour.

Katherine recently garnered rave reviews as the presenter and writer of Channel 4's How'd You Get So Rich? and also regularly appears major panel shows from BBC's QI, Have I Got News For You and Live at the Apollo and Channel 4's 8 Out of 10 Cats, as well as co-hosting Comedy Central's Your Face Or Mine with Jimmy Carr. She also won series two of Dave's Taskmaster.

Paul Chowdhry has sold out his Live Innit show at Dudley Town Hall on October 12 and TV comedian Matt Forde is bringing his A Show Hastily Rewritten to the stage at Stourbridge Town Hall on October 27. The borough halls comedy line-up also includes prankster Lee Nelson, Cornish comic Jethro and, in 2018, the return of Paul Chowdhry, Doreen in Rise of the Yam-Yam, David Baddiel, Jason Manford and Joe Lycett. For further details see boroughhalls.co.uk or call the box office on (01384) 812812.

Praise for college's student ambassadors

A COLLEGE has celebrated the first year of a European funded student exchange programme. The celebration was attended by students at Halesowen College who had completed work placements in Spain, Germany and Italy.

Three sports students worked in Barcelona, and eight students from business and IT travelled to Munich and Trento as part of the Strive programme.

The students were all congratulated by the new principal David Williams, who said: "This project has had a significant impact on the students. They have gained an understanding of working in a different country, which has enhanced their CVs and improved their employability."

Project manager Jamie Morgan-Green, of Halesowen College, said: "This is the first time that we have sent students abroad to take part in work experience and the feedback from the hosts and the companies has been extremely positive. The students were all true ambassadors."

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2017 Trident Range

New for 2017, the company has introduced the new Trident range of high security windows and doors, one of the most energy efficient windows available in the UK, combined with the advanced low maintenance qualities associated with modern day PVC-U products.

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Veteran Paratrooper recalls battle at a bridge too far

A SECOND World War hero from Sedgley who fought at the ill-fated Battle of Arnhem has recalled the carnage 73 years on.

By David Cosgrove

Jack Baker, a former Lance Corporal with the 1st Parachute Regiment, is among the few remaining survivors of the ill-fated Operation Market Garden of September 1944.

On paper, it sounded simple. Paratroopers and glider soldiers would be dropped in Arnhem, which was on the other side of the Rhine to other Allied forces, and seize control of the bridges on the vital route. This would pave the way for armoured units to progress towards Germany's industrial heartlands.

But Allied intelligence had failed to pick up that two armoured German divisions were resting in Arnhem – leaving the Allied airborne troops out-gunned.

Mr Baker, from Sedgley, landed by parachute and found himself in the thick of it.

Tanks

"We were in action as soon as we landed. We headed straight for the bridge," he said. "We would go through back gardens, crawling, doing whatever it took to get there. We got within a quarter-of-a-mile of the bridge. It was there that we hit the heavy stuff. They had flame throwers, tanks and heavy guns, and we just had our rifles."

After holding out for several days against a large and well-equipped enemy force, many of the Allied troops were ordered to head for the river and get across on boats. But there was only one small boat and hundreds of soldiers needing to escape.

Of the 10,000 troops who landed at Arnhem, almost 2,000 were killed, with 6,854 taken prisoner, including Mr Baker.

Wolverhampton branch of the Parachute Regimental Association meets on the first Tuesday of every month at Short Heath Royal British Legion Club. For more details call George Babb on 07958 108526.

Jack Baker, 93, of Sedgley, parachuted into war-torn Holland as a 20-year-old and took on heavily armed Germans

Boss jailed for £1.3m tax fraud

A BUSINESSMAN from Sedgley has been jailed for more than four years over a £1.3 million tax scam.

Company director Paul Marsh attempted to dupe the taxman as he battled to keep another struggling business afloat.

Marsh made three fraudulent VAT declarations to HMRC for his company Draco Consulting Services, which reduced the amount of tax owed by £1.3m. He used the money to prop up his other company, Marlin Resources UK Ltd.

Marsh, of Lickey Close, Sedgley, owned both companies, which provided payroll services. He was jailed for four years and three months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to cheat the public revenue at Birmingham Crown Court.

Window shop into the past

BLACK Country historian Ned Williams will be offering 'retail therapy' at the next meeting of Sedgley Local History Society.

For the third Andrew Barnet and Trevor Genge Memorial lecture at St Andrew's church on Thursday, October 12, he has chosen the topic 'Looking at Shops' from the area's past. Admission is £1 for the 7.30pm talk. Or join the society for £5 annual membership for free access to talks.

Kick start for Ryan's team plan

A TEENAGER'S dream of managing a football team for five to six-year-olds has been given a huge boost, thanks to builders.

Seventeen-year-old Ryan Robinson, of Sedgley, applied to Persimmon Homes West Midlands for Gornal Athletic Minor Mini Kickers, where he is coaching, to become a Healthy Communities winner. Through the scheme, £750 is available to be spent on sports kit, equipment, coaching or facilities.

Ryan is currently studying a BTEC Level 3 in football as an add-on to a Level 1 Football Coaching course that he recently completed. He said: "My aim is to form a team so that they can play non-competitive matches in a league."

Scouts will mark 50 years

THE Thirds Sedgley Scout Group are holding a 50th anniversary reunion in the town next month.

There will be displays of photographs and other memorabilia at the afternoon event being held at St Andrew's Church in Bilston Street, Sedgley, on Saturday, November 4.

The event will take place from noon to 6pm.

For further details contact Jean Jackson on 01902 885542.

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Runners get Pretty Muddy for cancer charity

MUD, mud, glorious mud – there was nothing quite like it for more than 2,000 entrants in the very first Pretty Muddy obstacle race at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

Women and girls battled over a three-mile course on Saturday throwing themselves down chutes, wriggling under cargo nets, bouncing on space hoppers and charging through a mud pit while continually being drenched by race organisers armed with water guns.

But it was all for a good cause with around £200,000 being raised for Cancer Research UK from the inaugural event at West Bromwich.

Most of the female-only field had personal reasons for taking part, with many carrying messages about their loved ones in the warm-up area.

Midwife Lavinia Henry, 49, from Penn, had two good friends in mind as she battled her way around the course.

Competitors had a splashing time in the Pretty Muddy obstacle race in Sandwell

Diagnosed

"One of them Gail had signed up to do this event but has since been diagnosed with bowel cancer so this is quite poignant for me. My other friend Jo is currently fighting cancer," she said.

Nurse Julie Darcy, of Walsall Wood, organised a group of 15 friends and workmates to take part in the fundraiser after the experience of caring for her mother, Doreen, in the last six months of her life. Her father John, 76, was at the event, sporting a T-shirt bearing his wife's smiling face, to support the group.

Organisers declared the event a big success. The Pretty Muddy event is an extension of the Race for Life runs which raise millions each year for Cancer Research UK.

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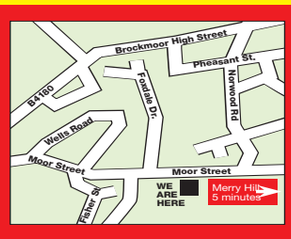

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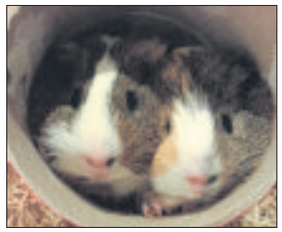
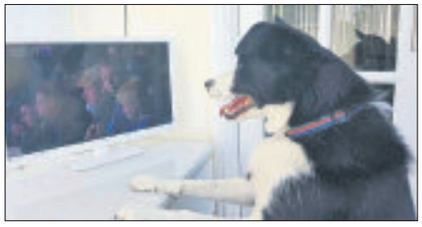
More pets on parade in Chronicle competition

Sugar and Sylvie in a coveted place


Guinea pigs Sherlock and Holmes

West Highland terriers Misty and Meg


Six-year-old border collie Jess enjoys watching tennis

Border terrier Judy, aged 10, has recovered from cancer

Snapshots reveal creature comforts

There is certainly some animal magic going on around here – as your pet pictures show.

Since The Chronicle launched its Animal Crackers photo competition readers have snapped to it and are sending in a host of cute, quirky and arty pictures of their pets.

From doe-eyed dogs, to cute kittens to fluffy guinea pigs, we loved it. And we want more pictures. Send us a picture of your beloved pet and as well as the chance to see your family pet in print, you could also win a £100 cash prize.

It can be any animal as long as it is a pet belonging to you or a member of your family.

Our Chronicle judges are simply looking for interesting pictures. We will select 10 of our favourite pictures and then it is up to our readers to decide which picture deserves the cash prize.

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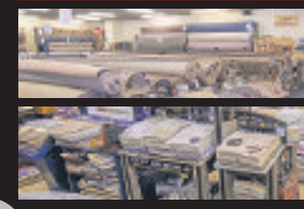

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Growing business is clearly a favourite with its customers

Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

Commercial feature

MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday. 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors ,sliding patio doors , french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is to small or to large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.

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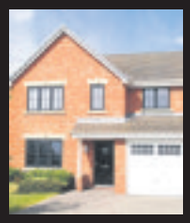

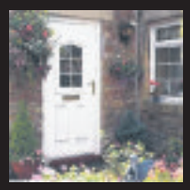

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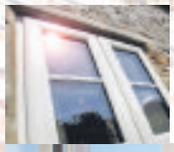

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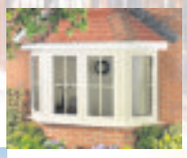

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The cast of youngsters with Mya Wright as Dorothy

Tin Man Arnold Tshibangu

Arnold Tshibangu took on the role of the robotic Tin Man

Youngsters from Wolverhampton and Sandwell in the ensemble

Milan Balaz as the cowardly lion

The five main acts; Tin Man, Toto, Dorothy, Lion and Scarecrow

In the groove for wizard show

POPPING, locking and lots of hip-hopping, this updated version of The Wizard Of Oz – featuring school students from the Black Country – was an absolute delight.

REVIEW - Groove On Down The Road, Patrick Centre, Birmingham Hippodrome. By Leon Burakowski

Mentored by professional dance company ZooNation, two dozen pupils from schools in Wolverhampton and Sandwell, took the spotlight over several performances.

Performed to a vigorous and loud R&B soundtrack, featuring Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and break-beat remixes from Motown's The Wiz movie, Kate Prince's choreography brilliantly blends old school showbiz hoofing with acrobatic hip-hop style.

The set up is that Dorothy is a classroom dreamer, woken from her reverie by an angry teacher and, after being bullied by classmates, escapes into the fantasy world of Oz. Here her various fellow pupils reappear in the guise of The Scarecrow (dressed in dungarees), Tin Man (boiler suit), etc.

The teenaged dancers, some looked even younger, did not put a foot wrong and were rewarded with loud cheers and a standing ovation from friends and parents in the audience at the Hippodrome's dance studio.

The main five pulled off astonishing flicks and tricks – and showed plenty of comic timing – whilst the well-drilled ensemble provided dependable support.

Mya Wright, from Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy in Wolverhampton, had apparently boundless energy as the pig-tailed Dorothy.

Zedan Russel was a cheeky super-strutting Toto. Arnold Tshibangu was mecha-amazing as the robotic Tin Man whilst Traileam Richardson drew gasps of admiration with his tumbling skills and fancy footwork as the Scarecrow. Milan Balaz was loyal to the classic hip-hop moves with his spinning Lion, and showed plenty of acting skills too.

The pupils from St Matthias, Coppice Performing Arts, Our Lady and St Chad's schools in Wolverhampton and the Shirelands Academy in Sandwell were superb.

It was the kind of show that saw people leave the venue with a big smile on their face and a spring in their step... more next year please.

Going crazy for actress Sweeney in stage show

ACTRESS, singer and TV personality Claire Sweeney will take the stage for a national tour of a major production next year.

She will take on the role of Irene in Crazy for You, due to light up Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from May 8 to 12, 2018.

The 46-year-old will replace Caroline Flack in the West End smash hit, which is a tribute to Broadway musicals. It is directed by Paul Hart and Claire will join Tom Chambers as Bobby and Charlotte Wakefield who plays Polly.

Sweeney

Sweeney is probably best-known for playing the role of Lindsey Corkhill in Brookside. Other television credits include Clocking Off and Merseybeat along with a presenting role on 60 Minute Makeover and a panellist on ITV's Loose Women.

Her West End roles include Roxie Hart in Chicago and Miss Adelaide in Guys and Dolls. She previously played the title role in Educating Rita at London's Menier Chocolate Factory and prior to that, played Paulette in the UK tour of the award-winning Legally Blonde.

She most recently appeared as Baroness Bomburst in the National Tour of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Model railway club hosting exhibition

CRADLEY Heath Model Railway Club are t to hold their fifth annual model railway exhibition at Cradley Heath Community Centre.

The event on Saturday, October 14, from 10am to 5pm, will involve modellers from across the Midlands with layouts and traders selling model equipment for those looking to get started. Black Country author Ned Williams, who is opening the event, will be displaying his latest model creation 'Canterbury Gate'. Tickets cost £4 for adults and £3 five to 15-year-olds.

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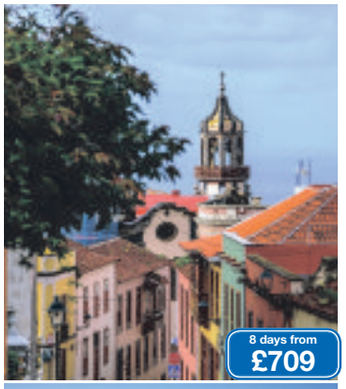

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It's the perfect Pace for a big old Hairspray 'do'

He's sitting in a pub in Lytham St Anne's. Norman Pace is chipper. The actor and comedian who is best known as one half of the comedy duo Hale and Pace has as much work as he would care for and is at peace with the world.

He's presently on the road in Hairspray, the 15-minute blitzkrieg of scintillating fabulousness. The all-singing, all-dancing, all-action musical is set in Baltimore, 1962.

It tells the story Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger dream: to dance her way onto national TV, and into the heart of teen idol Link Larkin. Tracy's audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for integration. But can she win equality – and Link's heart – without denting her 'do?

The feel-good musical features the hit songs Welcome To The 60s, You Can't Stop The Beat, The Nicest Kids in Town and many more and has Norman smiling each and every night.

"I have to say that I know Hairspray is a very good show but this really is a tremendous production. Drew McOnie is the go-to choreographer in Broadway and the West End and has worked on this.

"They really pulled out all the stops to get the right people for the show. They went through 1,600 hopefuls before they settled on the 32 people that you see on on stage. It's my first time in it and I'm loving it. A few of the guys have done this before but I'm the new boy, which is funny, since I'm also by far the oldest."

Reaching the tender age of 64 – amid a cast of 20-somethings – is great fun for Norman. Being around the younger generation keeps him young.

"I love being with the kids. Their enthusiasm and joie de vivre is inspiring. I get up at the end of the show and we do You Can't Stop the Beat. I love it. I do it eight times a week. Before I start, I know the audiences will love it and go mad. We've done 40-odd shows and every one has been a standing ovation.

"Seriously, you couldn't wish for a better group. Last night, after the show in Blackpool, one of the guys from the show said he knew a bloke who'd got a pub that did live music. Out of the 55 people on tour, 40 people turned up and we had a great night. The band got up and entertained us. It's brilliant fun."

Norman has to pinch himself when he considers the number of years he's successfully spent in showbusiness. The former teacher has been treading the boards for 36 years – many of them with his friend and comic partner Gareth Hale. They recently recorded four episodes of ITV's Benidorm, spending 10 weeks in Spain with Shropshire actor John Challis, among others.

Dare to dream – Norman Pace stars in the feel-good musical

And yet for Norman, all roads lead to the Black Country. Though he grew up in Newark-on-Trent, in Nottinghamshire, his heart belongs to Dudley.

"My granny and grandad lived in Dudley. When my mother was pregnant with me at the age of 18, she went to Dudley to have the baby. I think there was some sort of scandal because of the Catholic Church – if it wasn't for the church, I wouldn't be here. They didn't do such things as abortion back then.

So mum tried to pull a fast one and had me in Dudley then I'd visit my granny and grandad on holidays. They lived on Blowers Green Crescent, I still remember it now.

"There were slag heaps that were turned into football pitches and I'd go there until about the age of ten. The family were West Brom fans and took me to the Hawthorns to cheer on the Baggies. They were happy times. I felt very loved when I visited the Black Country."

Fame came calling for Hale and Pace when they worked together on a series of comedy shows, as well as featuring in Dalziel and Pascoe, guest starring in the Doctor Who serial Survival and featuring in a Christmas Special of Extras.

"It was a joyride. The whole thing was thrilling and we didn't have a minute to stop and think about it. If Gareth and I weren't making the TV series, we'd be touring. In every spare moment we'd be writing and we were even stupid enough to go on holiday together as families.

"The only downside about that experience was losing your privacy. At the petrol station, a queue of people would look at you like you were in a goldfish bowl. I'm under the radar these days and there are times when I grow a beard and people don't recognise me. It used to be that you'd get people arguing about which one you were. But it's no big deal. I had my taste of that life and it was intense. I can understand why film stars have people to fill their car up for them. Can you imagine what would happen if Rod Stewart was on the forecourt at Morrisons?"

Norman has no plans to slow down. There's no exit strategy, no secret yearning for a quieter life, no intention of upping sticks and moving to somewhere quieter.

"The laughter is what keeps you coming back. Even now, after all these years, if you're good at it and have a lot of experience and have enjoyed a long career, you can still learn a lot of things about how to do it better. I always want to beat the laughter I got last night, I want to keep moving forward."

He loves the fact that he's been able to play both TV and theatre during a starry career. He's worked with tremendous actors down the decades and their skills have helped him to develop.

For now, all thoughts are of Hairspray. "It's great bringing the show to Birmingham because Dudley's only just down the road and that's always been special to me. I'm hoping that people from Dudley and Wolves will pop over and say hello."

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Kara Lily Hayworth as Cilla Black

Step inside for musical story of singing star Cilla

LEADING lady in Cilla The Musical, Kara Lily Hayworth, beat thousands of hopefuls to be named as the girl to step into the Liverpudlian legend's shoes in the first musical about the star's life, at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week.

Cilla The Musical, which began its tour in Liverpool last month, is an adaptation of the critically acclaimed ITV mini-series based on the early life of Cilla Black, by BAFTA award-winner, Jeff Pope.

Kara queued for four hours at London's Dominion Theatre to have her chance to audition in the first rounds. She made it to a final audition at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. Executive producer Robert Willis, who is Cilla's son, said: 'We wanted somebody who wasn't going to impersonate my mum but someone who could capture her spirit. Kara came in with her huge personality and amazing voice. When I saw the response of the audience at the Cavern, I knew we'd found her!"

From Watford, Kara trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, and this will be her first leading role in a big musical. She even briefly met the 1960s pop star turned TV presenter, when the 11-year-old Kara got the Surprise Surprise host's autograph.

"She was a huge inspiration to me as a child," says Kara. "I grew up watching her on Blind Date every Saturday night with my Nan. To play her is such an honour."

The show is packed with 60s songs including Cilla's own hits, such as Anyone Who Had a Heart and Alfie.

Gangsters, no, kids' TV did it for Coolio

He's a Grammy-award winning rapper, best known for his mega hit Gangsta's Paradise.

But 54-year-old Coolio has come a long way since the mid 90s. He's now a chef and activist for the environment and raising awareness of asthma, a TV and film star.

The Compton-born star (that's LA not Wolverhampton) will come to Arena Birmingham with I Love The 90s on Saturday which Coolio says is the greatest tour of his career. Joining him will be fellow 90s stars Vanilla Ice, Salt N Peppa, Color Me Badd, Tone Loc and Young MC.

"This tour is really great. Everybody knows each other, and have done for so many years; it's like going on tour with your family," he said.

"It's an amazing show. This is one of the best tours of my career. There's just non-stop involvement and dancing.

"I've always had a good time in the UK. I can't think of a bad time I've had there. At the beginning of my career, there may have been a few mishaps. But people have always treated me well there and I've done shows pretty much everywhere in the UK."

Coolio has not only made his name as a rap artist, but also as a writer of theme songs, having rapped the theme tune to children's TV show Kenan and Kel, which also opened up the world of acting to the Californian. Since then, he's had parts in Adult Swim TV show Black Jesus and Daredevil, as well as taking part in UK reality show Celebrity Big Brother and game show Tipping Point.

"Kenan and Kel, believe it or not, has turned out to be the one of the most important things I've done in my career. Just as much as Gangsta's Paradise," added Coolio.

Greg puts Brum to task in festival

A host of comic talent is gathering for Birmingham Comedy Festival at various venues. Highlights include Taskmaster's Greg Davies, right, at Symphony Hall Monday and Tuesday. Brum's Joe Lycett joins Yardley MP Jess Phillips at the Town Hall on Wednesday. Henning Wehn proves Germans have a sense of humour at the Town Hall next Friday and Saturday. Other acts include Matt Lucas, Simon Amstell, Phill Jupitus and Zoe Lyons. See www.bhamcomfest.co.uk

Powerhouse trio Yak back for home city gig

FEROCIOUS London-based rock trio Yak, fronted by Wolverhampton's Oli Burslem, have a rare gig in his home city at Newhampton Arts Centre on Thursday, October 12. Gigs at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms include rockers Arcane Roots tomorrow (Friday), blues singer Rebecca Downes on Saturday, acclaimed guitarist Andy McKee on Sunday, Nottingham's Amber Run play Tuesday and Broken Witt Rebels next Friday.

US country star Marty Stuart is at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow, Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight brings soul to Symphony Hall on Sunday. Country-pop outfit Lady Antebellum play Birmingham Arena on Monday, the same night Nick Mulvey is at O2 Institute in Digbeth. Dweezil Zappa celebrates father Frank's legacy at Birmingham Town Hall on Thursday.

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WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

SATURDAY'S TV OCTOBER 7

CHOICE

Ross Sutherland

Basquiat - Rage to Riches (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary, exploring the rise in profile of the output of American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose work is currently the subject of a large-scale exhibition at the Barbican in London - the first time a wholly Basquiat collection has been displayed in the UK. This film serves as a portrait of Jean-Michel's origins, making use of interviews with his sisters Lisane and Jeanine, along with accounts from his friends, confidants, lovers and contemporaries, to detail how a self-taught, Brooklyn-born artist came to rank alongside the likes of Picasso, de Kooning and Francis Bacon on the international art marketplace - 29 years after his death.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Gymnastics: World Championships. **2.45 Film:** Muppets Most Wanted. (2014) Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. **4.25** Chris Coleman: Dare to Dream. **5.25** BBC News. **5.35** Regional Programme. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities.

6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the pro-celebrity dance competition continues. Last week, the couples were given their first taste of the pressures of avoiding elimination, and the tension does not let up as the second round of the competition proper gets under way with Movie Week. As in previous competitions, the 14 duos are challenged to come up with routines that pay homage to Hollywood's greatest films, and they begin with a group performance that serves as a tribute to recent smash-hit musical La La Land. As always, Shirley Ballas, Craig Revel Horwood, Bruno Tonioli and Darcey Bussell are on hand to deliver their verdict on the stars' performances, before handing over judging duties to viewers at home, who will get a chance to have their say over which performers to back ahead of the results show.

8.40 Casualty. Dylan is forced to bring Sanosi into the Emergency Department, much to David's dismay, and Lily grows ever more jealous of the bond forming between Iain and Sam. Meanwhile, Connie struggles to deal with the severity of her diagnosis, and tries to come to terms with what it means for her future.

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes and the Brown family await the fruits of their fraud after faking Grandad's death to get a payout, but the insurance company starts to grow suspicious. (R)

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Film: Thor: The Dark World. (2013) The thunder god joins forces with his treacherous brother to defend the universe against an old foe. Superhero adventure sequel, with Chris Hemsworth.

12.05 The NFL Show. **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

7.10 Film: Hans Christian Andersen. (1952) **9.00** Saturday Mash-Up! **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **1.30** Flog It! (R) **2.30** Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. (R) **3.30** India: Nature's Wonderland. (R) **4.30** Mastermind. (R) **5.00** The Big Family Cooking Showdown. (R)

6.00 Anglesey: Island Life. New series. The lives of some of the residents of Wales' largest island, including Mike Williams, who is trying to get his smoke-damaged shop back on its feet.

6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives advice on making leaf mould from fallen leaves and how to use it. Frances Tophill helps a gardener whose plants are not thriving where they are planted. (R)

7.30 Front Row. Harrison Ford and Ryan Gosling discuss Blade Runner 2049, Ian McKellen offers a masterclass in playing Shakespeare's King Lear, and Tim Minchin performs live in the studio.

8.00 Britain Afloat. Mary-Ann Ochota tells the story of river boats in Britain, reaching back through time to investigate the ancient coracle, which is thought to have been in use for 40,000 years.

8.30 Dad's Army. Warden Hodges challenges Captain Mainwaring's platoon to a cricket match. Featuring a guest appearance by former England and Yorkshire fast bowler Fred Trueman. (R)

9.00 Basquiat – Rage to Riches. Documentary, profiling the rise in profile of the work of American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, via interviews with his sisters, friends, confidants, lovers and contemporaries.

10.30 Performance Live: Missing Episode. Ross Sutherland's audio-visual poem, which remixes an edition of EastEnders from October 7, 1997 to tell the story of what happened to the poet the night that episode first aired.

11.00 Later – with Jools Holland. The pianist welcomes the National back to the show, along with Morrissey, Queens of the Stone Age, Khalid, Jessie Ware and Marty Stuart.

12.05 Film: Bright Days Ahead. (2013) **1.35 Film:** A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. (1979)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **1.10** ITV News; Weather. **1.15** Catchphrase. (R) **2.00** The Chase. (R) **2.55** The X Factor: Bootcamp. (R) **4.25** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **4.50** Little Big Shots. (R) **5.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Cannonball. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle a series of water-based, obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup.

7.10 The Family Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts one final round of the family-themed edition of the game show. This time, the Price clan from Oldham makes a bid to outplay one of the resident professional quizzers. Last in the series.

8.15 The X Factor: Bootcamp.

9.45 The Jonathan Ross Show. Game of Thrones star Kit Harington joins Jonathan in the studio, and while he will no doubt be talked into chatting about the shocking developments for his character Jon Snow at the end of the show's penultimate series, discussion is likely to fall on the fact that he is starring as Robert Catesby – his own ancestor – opposite fellow guest Liv Tyler in the BBC's historical drama Gunpowder later this autumn. Also taking a seat on the sofa this evening are former Great British Bake Off presenter Sue Perkins, Grammy Award-winning singer Mary J Blige, and comedian Rob Beckett.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: American Pie: The Wedding. (2003) The friends reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming trip to the altar – but events quickly spiral out of control. Comedy sequel, with Jason Biggs and Alyson Hannigan.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45** Triathlon: Stoke on Trent City of Sport. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Crystal Maze. (R) **1.00** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **3.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. The Time Team veteran continues his journeys down some of the UK's oldest trackways and roads. This time, he visits the Peak District, where he ventures along the Derbyshire Portway, which is believed to date from the Bronze Age, and can be traced from Mam Tor in the north of the county, through to the Hemlock Stone on the edge of Nottingham. Along the way, he examines a prehistoric shark tooth, shines a light in an abandoned railway tunnel and takes a tour of DH Lawrence's mountain retreat.

8.00 WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails. Monty Halls travels along the ridges of the French Pyrenees mountains on the border with Spain, which were traversed by thousands of people seeking to escape Nazi occupation.

9.00 Film: Escape Plan. (2013) An expert takes a contract from the CIA to test a maximum security prison by trying to break out of it , but he soon discovers he has been duped and that his captors intend him to stay inside for ever. He hatches a plan to escape, but to succeed he will need the help of a long-term convict – who wants his own freedom in return for assistance. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

11.15 Film: The Gunman. (2015) After spending years in hiding, a mercenary becomes the latest target of his former colleagues. Crime drama, starring Sean Penn and Idris Elba.

1.20 The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. **4.30** Building the Dream. (R) **5.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **5.55** Kevin Can Wait.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.20** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.50** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.50** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.50** 5 News Weekend. **4.55** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.50** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.50 Film: Where Eagles Dare. (1968) An American general is held captive by the Nazis in a heavily defended fortress in the Alps. A crack team of British soldiers and an American lieutenant are dispatched to free him, but they soon realise there is a traitor in their ranks. Second World War adventure, starring Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood, Patrick Wymark, Michael Hordern and Mary Ure.

9.45 Live Boxing: York Hall Brawl. Andrew Selby v Maximino Flores. Coverage of the WBC world flyweight eliminator, which takes place at York Hall in Bethnal Green. Welshman Selby is undefeated thus far in his fledgling career, having won all nine of his previous bouts, with five of them being by stoppage.

11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Doncaster Rovers v Southend United and Barnet v Coventry City.

12.15 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with an entertaining mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. Featuring a variety of prizes and promotions. **3.10 Film:** Love at the Parade. (2012) The organiser of Chicago's Thanksgiving parade is furious when a consultant is brought in to take charge of the event's finances, thinking he is only interested in profit. But when she suffers an unexpected crisis, she finds support in her previously unwanted colleague, and begins to fall for him. Romantic drama, with Autumn Reeser and Antonio Cupo. **4.40** Divine Designs. Paul Binski investigates the period after the Second World War, which saw the birth of a modern style of ecclesiastical architecture. He visits Coventry and Chichester cathedrals to highlight the contemporary designs. (R) **5.05** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.30** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Incredible Human Journey **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Black Lake **10.25** James May: The Christmas Reassembler **10.55** James May: The Reassembler **11.25** British Sitcom: 60 Years of Laughing at Ourselves **12.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **1.30** EMI: The Inside Story **2.30** Wild China **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.25 The X Factor: Bootcamp **1.00 Film:** The Lake House (2006) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05 Film:** The Lake House (2006) **3.05 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.55 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.00 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **8.05** FYI Daily **8.10 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Bromans **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.50 Bertie and Elizabeth **1.55** Rosemary & Thyme **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's meetings from Ascot, Newmarket and Redcar. **4.00** World Cup Top Goalscorers **4.10** Pawn Stars **5.10** Hornblower **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Belarus v Netherlands (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** River Monsters **11.00** World Cup Qualifier Highlights **12.30** The Sweeney **1.35** The Classic Car Show **2.25** The Car Chasers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011) **11.20** Naked Attraction **12.30** Gogglebox

Film4
11.00 Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **1.00** The Boxtrolls (2014) **2.50** Parental Guidance (2012) **4.55** Crocodile Dundee (1986) **6.50** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **9.00** Unbroken (2014) **11.40** Underworld: Awakening (2012) **1.20** White God (2014) **3.45** Close

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SUNDAY'S TV OCTOBER 8

CHOICE

Louis Theroux

Louis Theroux: Dark States - Heroin Town (BBC2, 9pm)

In Huntington, West Virginia, Louis Theroux embeds himself in an Appalachian community that is being devastated and stretched to its limits by widespread heroin use. He spends time with members of the user community that are caught in the grip of drug addiction, and follows the emergency services as they struggle to cope with multiple overdoses each day.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Points of View. **4.00** Lifeline. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.45** Who Do You Think You Are? (R) **5.45** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. Anita Rani and Matt Baker visit Dumfries House in East Ayrshire. They discover how the estate employs many local people and provides young people with a chance to develop traditional craft skills and work with the rare breed cattle on the house's farms. Plus, Charlotte Smith investigates how electric cars will be powered and Adam Henson checks up on his pregnant sheep and cows.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Claudia Winkleman and Tess Daly reveal the next couple to leave the contest.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Nymans Gardens near Crawley. Items brought in to be valued include an axe used in one of George Mallory's ascents of Everest, a sofa that put in an appearance in a classic movie, a diver's watch and a bag of trinkets found on top of a wardrobe that turns out to contain something unexpected.

9.00 The Last Post. Mary goes into labour while her husband has left the city to rendezvous with the SAS, who are returning to Aden after a secret mission to capture a dangerous fugitive.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Sir Bobby Charlton at 80. Documentary celebrating the life and career of the former Manchester United footballer, who won the World Cup with England on home soil in 1966, as he approaches his 80th birthday.

11.35 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.10 The Graham Norton Show. (R) **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.25** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.55** Countryfile. (R) **9.50** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.20** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **11.50** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.35** Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.15 Film:** Dial M for Murder. (1954) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Ray Milland. **3.00** Gymnastics: World Championships. **5.00** Rugby League Grand Final Highlights.

6.00 Top Gear. Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz go in search of the latest supercars at Germany's Nurburgring circuit, while Matt LeBlanc test drives the Aston Martin DB11, but finds Chris Harris and his Mercedes causing no end of trouble. Tamsin Greig takes to the Top Gear Test Track as this week's Star in a Reasonably Fast Car. (R)

7.00 Russia with Simon Reeve. The adventurer embarks on a journey across the world's biggest country, taking him from the snow-capped volcanoes of the far east, through some of the remotest parts of the planet, to the great cities of the west, Moscow and St Petersburg. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assesses the profit-making potential of business plans for a range of eco mannequins, cork-based yoga mats, and a cycling navigation device. Presented by Evan Davis.

9.00 Louis Theroux: Dark States – Heroin Town. In Huntington, West Virginia, Louis Theroux embeds himself in an Appalachian community that is being devastated and stretched to its limits by widespread heroin use.

10.00 Snowfall. New series. An educated young man seeks a way to get on in life. Hard-hitting drama about the beginnings of the crack epidemic in 1980s Los Angeles. Damson Idris stars.

10.55 Mock the Week. Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Ed Gamble, Milton Jones and Nish Kumar join host Dara O Briain and regular Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R)

11.30 Film: Oranges and Sunshine. (2010) A social worker discovers thousands of British children have been sent to care homes in Australia and suffered abuse. Fact-based drama, starring Emily Watson.

1.10 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Amazing Animal Births. (R) **11.25** Robson Green's Coastal Lives. (R) **11.55** Bigheads. (R) **12.55** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** The Chase. (R) **2.00** The X Factor: Bootcamp. (R) **3.30** Victoria. (R) **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. Lithuania v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.20 ITV News; Weather.

7.30 The X Factor: Six Chair Challenge. Dermot O'Leary hosts the first of three six chair challenge episodes, in which each judge must choose six acts to go forward to the next stage of the contest in the Judges' Houses. The judges must make the decision as soon as each act has performed – but are free to change their mind should someone better come along later in the show.

9.00 Victoria. After a series of assassination attempts, the queen is forced to seek sanctuary far from the palace. She and Albert travel to the Scottish Highlands, an area that has always fascinated her, but proves to be far from the romantic retreat she had fantasised about. However, travelling incognito gives both the royal couple and their servants a freedom they do not often experience. Denis Lawson guest stars.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)

11.15 World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley presents action from the latest fixtures, including Lithuania v England and Slovenia v Scotland in Group F, and Norway v Northern Ireland in Group C.

12.15 Liar. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **5.15** The Great British Bake Off. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel look ahead to wedding season, with eight couples booking the chateau for their big day. Dick also converts a stone barn into a flat for Angel's parents, getting rid of 150 years' worth of rubbish in the process, but tensions rise between the couple when he gets carried away with the trees at the front of the property. Last in the series.

8.00 Escape. A group of five engineers is challenged to escape from a simulated landslide that has caused several vehicles to fall into a deep canyon. Presented by Ant Middleton.

9.00 Electric Dreams: Crazy Diamond. A married man's life is turned upside down by an encounter with a mysterious woman that leaves him smitten. He discovers is actually a dangerous synthetic being and has an illegal plan that will transform his life if he helps. All his wife's worst fears are confirmed as she leads him into a series of disasters that threatens to destroy everything they hold dear. Steve Buscemi, Julia David, Sidse Babett Knudsen and Joanna Scanlan star in the fourth of the series of sci-fi tales, based on Philip K. Dick's short story Sales Pitch.

10.05 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with captain Jon Richardson and Jason Manford take on guest captain Alan Carr and Katherine Ryan. (R)

11.05 Film: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (2013) An ordinary man who drifts through life by disappearing into daydreams is forced to embark on an adventure in real life. Comedy drama, with Ben Stiller and Kristen Wiig.

1.10 WWII's Great Escapes: The Freedom Trails. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Wissper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.10** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.30** Floogals. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.25** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30 Film:** Innerspace. (1987) Sci-fi comedy, starring Dennis Quaid. **2.50 Film:** Mannequin. (1987) **3.50** 5 News Update. **3.55 Film:** Mannequin. (1987) **4.35 Film:** Annie. (1982) **5.35** 5 News Update. **5.40 Film:** Annie. (1982) John Huston's musical, with Aileen Quinn and Albert Finney.

7.05 Deep-Sea Super Predator. Documentary following the search for a mysterious creature that is large enough to hunt down and devour a three-metre great white shark. (R)

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce action from the sixth round of matches, including Harlequins v Sale Sharks, Exeter Chiefs v Newcastle Falcons, and Saracens v Wasps.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Wild Card. (2015) Premiere. A Las Vegas bodyguard with a gambling problem finds himself on the wrong side of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Michael Angarano.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 Film: Wild Card. (2015) Premiere. A Las Vegas bodyguard with a gambling problem finds himself on the wrong side of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Michael Angarano.

11.05 Film: Safe. (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan.

12.50 Car Crash TV. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** A Lonely Place to Die. (2011) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **5.50** Access. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Addicted to Sheep **9.00** Horizon **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The Search for a New Earth **12.00** Dancing Cheek to Cheek: An Intimate History of Dance **1.00** Addicted to Sheep **2.00** Horizon **3.00** Close

ITV2

11.10 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.50** The X Factor: Bootcamp **1.20** Take Me Out **2.35** You've Been Framed: Gold Top 100 Animals **3.35 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40 Film:** Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.15 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20 Film:** Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.20 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.25** Through the Keyhole **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.00 Film: Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Blue Murder at St Trinian's (1957) **2.55 Film:** Columbo: By Dawn's Early Light (1974) **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Honest **11.05 Film:** Changeling (2008) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10 Film:** Changeling (2008) **1.50** The Knock **2.45** Mr Selfridge **3.35** Lewis

ITV4

1.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50 Film:** Jeremiah Johnson (1972) **3.55 Film:** The Way West (1967) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** The Way West (1967) **6.20** River Monsters **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** The Devil's Advocate (1997) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Devil's Advocate (1997) **11.55** Car Crash Global **12.55** The Sweeney

E4

11.00 Don't Tell the Bride **12.00** My Hotter Half **1.00** The Big Bang Theory: Biggest Bangs **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Ice Age 3: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **9.55 Film:** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)

Film4

11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Hercules (1983) **3.05** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **4.40** Dr Dolittle 2 (2001) **6.20** Robin Hood (2010) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** Knight and Day (2010) **2.10** The Selfish Giant (2013) **4.00** Close

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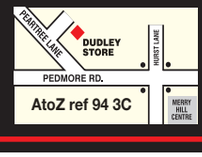

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Blade: Trinity, Channel 5, 11.05pm
The fearless warrior's blood-sucking foes frame him for murder, forcing him to go on the run from the FBI while his enemies resurrect the first and most powerful of their kind – Dracula himself. Joining forces with a team of human vampire slayers, Blade embarks on a quest to wipe out the undead menace once and for all. Fantasy action thriller sequel, with Wesley Snipes and Jessica Biel. (2004)

TUESDAY
Fatal Honeymoon, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman goes on honeymoon to Australia, only to drown during a scuba-diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Her father is not convinced this was an accident, and begins to suspect her husband may have murdered her. A year later, he finally finds the evidence to prove his accusation. Fact-based crime drama, starring Harvey Keitel and Billy Miller. (2012)

Wild Card, Thursday, Channel 5, 11.05pm

WEDNESDAY
A Mother's Fear, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A single mother resolves to discover the cause of her son's mysterious illness. Her investigation leads her to a corporation involved in genetically modified food and two scientists who are on the verge of a groundbreaking new discovery. Drama, starring Zoe Lister-Jones, Danny Glover and Victor Garber. (2015)

THURSDAY
Wild Card, Channel 5, 11.05pm
Las Vegas bodyguard Nick Wild finds himself dealing with more than just his gambling problem after he takes revenge on the criminal who attacked his friend, little realising that the thug in question is the son of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Michael Angarano and Milo Ventimiglia. (2015)

FRIDAY
As Above, So Below, Channel 4, 12.10am
An expedition ventures into a network of underground tunnels beneath Paris. As they explore the catacombs, the archaeologists experience a series of strange events and come under attack from a mysterious unknown force that seems to know their darkest secrets. Horror, starring Perdita Weeks. (2014)

Returning drama series takes a shocking new turn

Life is never dull for Georgie Lane – and you get the impression she wants to keep it that way.

The last time we saw her, the experienced Army medic was coming to terms with being kidnapped in Kenya, but clearly the trauma involved with that situation hasn't put her off serving on the front line, because she's back in action when the new, third series begins.

This time, it's a longer run of 12 episodes featuring three stories.

"With an expanded 12-part series commission, this time Our Girl will follow our characters on three distinct missions in far-flung, dangerous parts of the globe - and we cannot wait to bring their new adventures back to BBC One," claims executive producer Caroline Skinner.

"I'm so happy that we'll be back for another series as I think there's definitely more stories to tell with Georgie," stated Michelle Keegan, who plays her, after the transmission of the second run. "The reaction to the show has been overwhelming and I'm really thankful to everyone who's watched and supported it. It was an amazing experience filming with such an incredible group of people and I can't wait to do it all over again."

It's certainly taken her a long way from Coronation Street, where she initially made her name.

She isn't, of course, the only soap star to have featured in the acclaimed drama.

When it first began, Lacey Turner took the lead role of Molly Dawes while on hiatus from EastEnders, a teenager who decided that the military offered her a new lease of life away from the dreariness and lack of hope she felt at home. She had to turn down further adventures when she returned to Albert Square to play Stacey.

Our Girl's creator, Tony Grounds, also had a stint as an EastEnders writer, so knows how serial drama works, which is perhaps why this project appeals so much to a wide audience; he has the inside track in making characters compelling, inspiring viewers to keep coming back for more.

This time around, the action begins in Nepal, as Grounds reveals: "On a disaster relief mission to Nepal after an earthquake hits the country, 2 Section is thrown into a perilous and life-changing situation. Michelle Keegan, brilliantly reprising her role as Corporal Georgie Lane, shows remarkable courage in the face of adversity and inspires the troops to perform their duty with bravery and compassion."

As well as carrying out her regular duties as a medic, Georgie is also entrusted with mentoring reckless new recruit Maisie, whose behaviour could put others in danger.

However, Georgie is soon distracted by handsome Nepalese engineer Milan, who is also helping the relief effort. They quickly form a close bond while working together to rebuild the area, but their lives are soon at risk when an aftershock rocks the village they were visiting.

Our Girl – Nepal Tour, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star
Channel 4, 5.30pm
New series. Former Gogglebox stars and B&B owners Steph and Dom Parker help people whose hotels and guest-houses are struggling, as well as those just starting out in business, aiming to take each establishment from the lowest rating to a luxury one in just five days. On arrival at the Ransdale Hotel in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, the couple challenge the owners to expand their breakfast menu, create a seaside-themed bedroom and throw a beach party for the general public. But how will today's guests rate their efforts?

TUESDAY
The Great British Bake Off
Channel 4, 8pm
The amateur cooks take part in Italian week, which culminates in a fiddly showstopper in the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the tent. Before that, under the ever watchful gaze of judges Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith, the contestants dish up a Sicilian signature that gets them all hot under the collar and a deceptively tricky technical. Noel Fielding and Sandi Toksvig are on hand to keep the bakers in line as the pressure of reaching the final stages of the competition intensifies.

Russia 1917: Countdown to Revolution
BBC2, 9pm
A look at Russia's transition from tsarist autocracy to communist state, focusing on the involvement of three men – Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin, all of whom emerged from obscurity to forge an entirely new political system in the space of a few months. This drama-documentary examines the 245 days that brought these men to supreme power. As the history unfolds writers and historians, including Martin Amis, Orlando Figes, Helen Rappaport, Simon Sebag Montefiore and China Mieville, battle over the meaning of the Russian Revolution and explore how it shaped the world of today. Narrated by Juliet Stevenson.

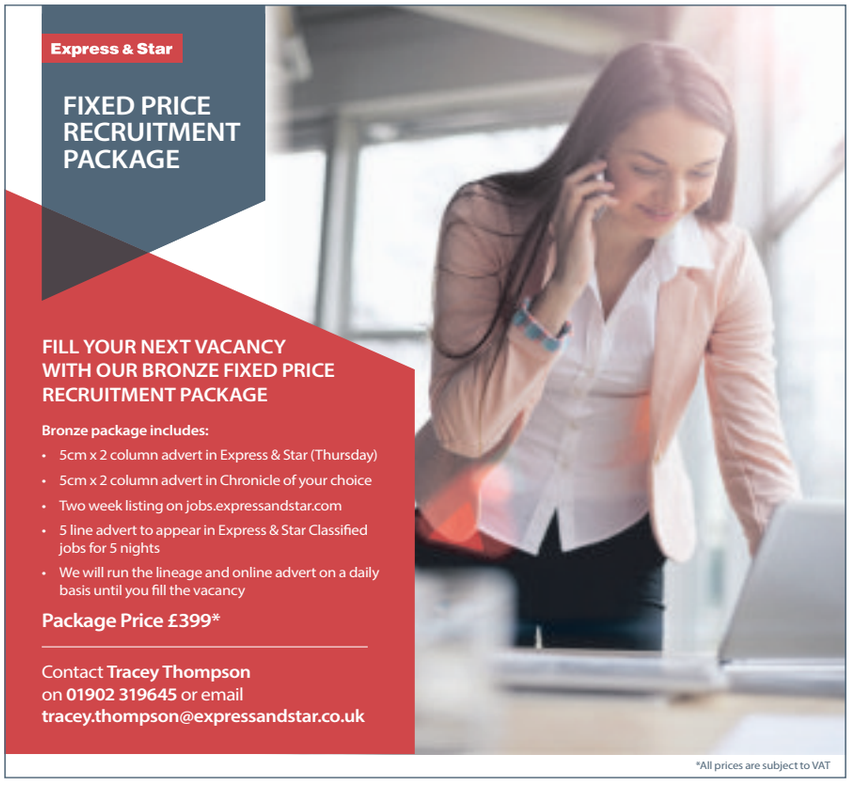
WEDNESDAY
Eat Well for Less?
BBC1, 8pm
After a break, Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin return to show more families that they can eat better and cut their bills at the same time– and they're starting with the biggest clan to date. Single mum Angela has five daughters, aged between eight and 18, and as if feeding them all wasn't tough enough, one of her girls has Coeliac disease and another has Coeliac and Type 1 diabetes. Angela's lack of confidence in the kitchen has left her reliant on convenience foods, but with her girls all wanting different things, it's not proving to be very convenient. Gregg and Chris's first step is to get her to stop shopping daily for that night's dinner and instead start planning gluten-free meals the whole family can enjoy together.

The Last Leg, Friday, Channel 4, 10pm

THURSDAY
An Hour to Catch a Killer with Trevor McDonald
ITV, 9pm
It's known as 'the golden hour' – the first 60 minutes of a murder investigation, where every decision is crucial and can make the difference between whether a killer is caught and convicted or walks free. To provide an insight into why that time window matters so much, Trevor McDonald presents this documentary, which follows the Northumbria homicide detectives as they investigate the death of a young woman. From the moment the body is discovered, the entire murder squad record the investigation on their HD body cameras, taking viewers inside the crime scene where an ordinary camera crew couldn't go for fear of contaminating evidence.

FRIDAY
A Celebrity Taste of Italy
Channel 5, 9pm
Judith Chalmers, Ian Lavender, Rula Lenska, Johnny Ball and Diana Moran sample some Italian-style rest and relaxation. Rula and Diana head off to the local sulphur springs to search for the secret of eternal youth in its volcanic mud. As they slather up, Johnny and Judith find a whole new use for olive oil – being massaged in it.

The Last Leg
Channel 4, 10pm
Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by guests Armando Iannucci and Sue Perkins for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. The group members offer their own unique insight into some of the most difficult and delicate issues in modern Britain, and answer that most important of questions: is it OK?

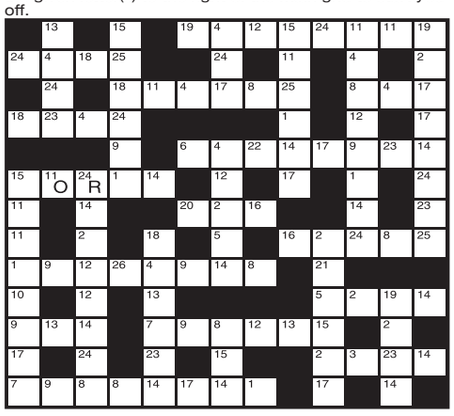


BRAIN GYM

No.450

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



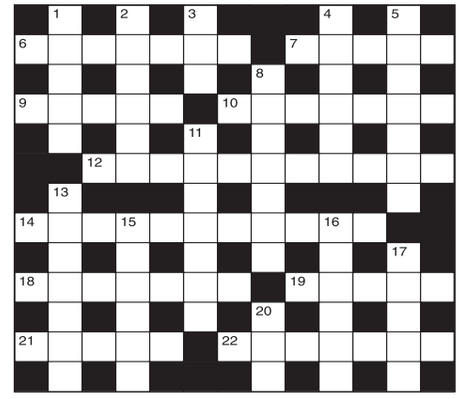
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11 O	24 R
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 W	2 H	3 O	4 C	5 P	6 E	7 S	8 Q	9 J	10 K	11 Z	12 I	13 L
14 M	15 B	16 G	17 D	18 V	19 X	20 U	21 F	22 T	23 A	24 Y	25 N	26 R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Unusually precise instructions to the cook (7)
7. Stage scenery for domestic units (5)
9. See 21 Across
10. Festival possessed Arthurian figure (7)
12. Sieges that may provide considerable interest (11)
14. Nippers living on their own? (6,5)
18. I could be in one rut, keeping to this (7)
19. Tree situated in fenced areas (5)
21 & 9Ac. Kind of agent protected by insurance! (5,5)
22. It will show the temperature of a planet (7)

Down

1. Brush seen in Entebbe sometimes (5)
2. Kind of iron age bird! (6)
3. See 20 Down
4. Many quit, yet still stick together (6)
5. Artist's different version - of Dover? (7)
8. This provides electricity for the artillery unit (7)
11. Disturbing the game but coming out the winner (7)
13. Sapper obliged to show resilience (7)
15. Molecular structure to be of importance (6)
16. Opening the back of the gun, by the sound of it (6)
17. Youngster one found in grain store (5)
20 & 3Dn. Part of the map of the Middle East could be erased (3,3)

Quick Clues:

Across

6. Scales (7)
7. Jovial (5)
9. Fortunate (5)
10. Pledge (7)
12. Wage earner (5-6)
14. Reach a climax (4,2,1,4)
18. Barbarous (7)
19. Composition (5)
21. Trivial (5)
22. Artful (7)

Down

1. Ill-defined (5)
2. Pedestrian (6)
3. Work (3)
4. Universal (6)
5. Bunch (7)
8. Excrescences (7)
11. Tea urn (7)
13. Contrary (7)
15. Justice (6)
16. Away (6)
17. Boast (5)
20. Merriment (3)

Sudoku

	5			2	7			
		6		3	9			4
9	8			6	1	7		
	6					4		
	7			4			6	
		1			5		2	
		5	2				3	1
3	4		9	1		6		
			3	5				9

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

9	3	8	4	6	7	1	2	5
4	1	5	3	8	2	6	9	7
2	6	7	1	9	5	8	4	3
7	5	9	6	4	8	3	1	2
1	8	3	7	2	9	4	5	6
6	4	2	5	3	1	9	7	8
8	9	6	2	5	4	7	3	1
3	2	1	9	7	6	5	8	4
5	7	4	8	1	3	2	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Healed; 8 Breach; 10 Hydrant; 11 Check; 12 Arch; 13 Tense; 17 Brick; 18 Dene; 22 Arise; 23 Esparto; 24 Pilots; 25 Coarse. Down: 1 The head; 2 Haddock; 3 Nepal; 4 Process; 5 Layer; 6 Shake; 9 Stretcher; 14 Priests; 15 Bearers; 16 Recover; 19 Wasps; 20 Villa; 21 Spool.
QUICK - Across: 7 Apathy; 8 Madden; 10 Sharpen; 11 Nerve; 12 Vile; 13 Greed; 17 Cross; 18 Mere; 22 Tacit; 23 Outcast; 24 Fettle; 25 Censor. Down: 1 Massive; 2 Manacle; 3 Shape; 4 Saunter; 5 Adore; 6 Under; 9 Intrusion; 14 Brittle; 15 Because; 16 Vesture; 19 Staff; 20 Acute; 21 Steep.

Quiz

1. Which great British actor's middle name was Kerr?
2. What is the collective name for the first five books of the Old Testament?
3. Which Greek actress died of lung cancer in March 1994?
4. What is the name of Seurat's technique of painting with dots?
5. Which pop group had a hit with Morningtown Ride?
6. Which African leader was called 'The Lion of Judah'?
7. Which composer was nicknamed 'the Waltz King'?
8. With which US political party has Tammany Hall been associated?
9. Which military vehicle was invented by Ernest Swinton?
10. Which sleepy character was invented by Washington Irving in 1819?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Female; 2 Philippines; 3 Eddie Grundy; 4 Home Guard; 5 OJ Simpson; 6 Electrocardiogram; 7 Lhasa; 8 Zinc; 9 Uruguay; 10 Electrical resistance.

Niner: PERSONIFY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

32156 gives a tree,
47453 gives a second tree,
956128 gives a fertile spot.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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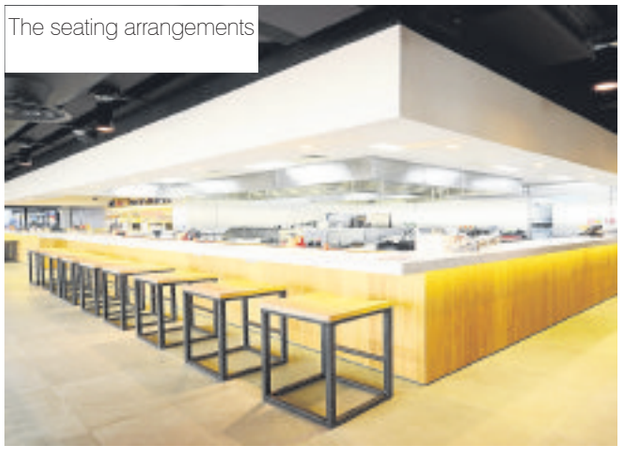
Wagamama's – food that woks

It was a busy day off work. While the rest of the city was facing the nine-to-five, we were racing around attending various appointments. Places to go, people to see, so we really needed a quick ladies-that-lunch kind of meal.

There were loads of options, with Italian, burgers and pub grub all on the menu. But we decided to go for something wholesome and a brand that was a firm favourite for both of us. Wagamama's has been going for 25 years and boasts more than 120 restaurants in the UK alone. We dropped in at the new outlet in New Street, Birmingham.

The concept is truly Japanese. The menu is varied with many little nibbly bits, ramen (broth) noodle dishes, teppanyaki (sizzling noodles), donburi (steamed rice) curries with drinks including fresh juices, Asian beers and traditional Japanese rice wine sake. While it has added to its menu over the years it has kept some of its original dishes.

Wagamama's, New Street


The seating arrangements

QUIET

From the outside it seemed fairly quiet but everyone was seated at the back. There were tables outside and for a Tuesday lunchtime, it was just the right amount of busy. I already knew what I'd be having before I stepped inside but happily perused the menu just in case something different jumped out at me.

My friend opted for lots of smaller plates and a diet Coke whereas I went for edamame beans and a chicken katsu curry with a glass of Prosecco.

We both ordered the edamame beans which are popped into the mouth to enjoy the salty soya flavour. It always seems like a healthy option and gives a virtuous feeling especially as I was enjoying my glass of fizz.

My curry was up next. A gorgeous mould of perfectly cooked rice, boiled and not at all sticky or stodgy with the Panko breaded sliced chicken smothered in the gorgeous katsu curry sauce. There was a lovely side salad with a fiery ginger garnish on the side which added some refreshment from the heat of the curry.

The sauce was thick and smooth and there was lots of it. My friend couldn't decide what to have so went for the chilli squid, ebi katus and a raw salad. She picked at her dishes as they each arrived, devouring bits from each with a contented look creeping into her smile. The crispy fried squid was dusted with the spice shichimi. It also comes with a chilli and coriander dipping sauce. She loved the squid, said it was perfectly cooked.

The ebu katsu was crispy fried prawns in panko breadcrumbs, served with a spicy chilli and garlic sauce. The perfect soft fishy pieces were a delicious contrast to the crunchy coating of breadcrumbs and the chilli dip added some fire to the light prawn flavour.

The raw salad was a lovely healthy option with mixed leaves, edamame beans, baby plum tomatoes, seaweed and pickled mooli, carrot and red onion and all of it topped with fried shallots and the wagamama house dressing. She ate the lot saying it was fresh and zingy and very well dressed.

There were desserts on offer but none really took our fancy. In any case we had dresses to try on so didn't want any extra unnecessary bulges!

A bill of £44.05 was reasonable for the amount of food we had ordered. It was a great experience and the staff were friendly and smiley throughout making the meal all the more enjoyable.

LISA WILLIAMS

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Quote Code: YHV637

Selected Monday departures until April 2018

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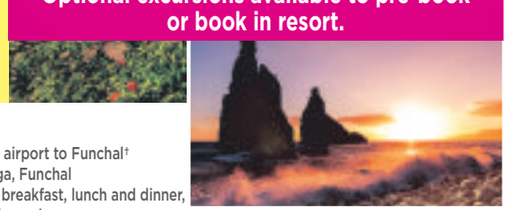
Optional excursions available to pre-book or book in resort.



Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Birmingham airport to Funchal†
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- ✔ Light all-inclusive: buffet-style breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus complimentary drinks with meals
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8 days, by AIR from **£649pp**

The advertised price is correct as of 25 September 2017 and is based upon departure from Birmingham airport on 11 December 2017.

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/YHV637

Quote Code: THG374

CYPRUS WINTER SUN

Selected departures, November 2017 - April 2018

Gorgeous eastern Med island with beaches, forests, waterfalls, mountain villages, sea caves, vineyards, snow-capped peaks, fishing harbours and 10,000 years of World Heritage history. The perfect holiday away from the British winter.

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Birmingham airport to Paphos†
- ✔ 7 nights at the 3 star Dionysos Central Hotel, Paphos with hot buffet English breakfast and buffet dinner
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer to the hotel
- ✔ Services of an English-speaking representative

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/THG374

8 days, by AIR from **£629pp**

The advertised price is correct as of 25 September 2017 and is based upon departure from Birmingham airport on 10 January 2018.

Quote Code: EDD121

LAKE MAGGIORE AND COMO SPECIAL

Selected departures, 15 & 30 April, 13 May, 23 September & 7 October 2018

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return flight from Birmingham airport to Milan Malpensa†
- ✔ 7 nights half board at the 3 star Hotel Flora, Stresa in a room with a balcony
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- ✔ Three lakes tour of Lake Maggiore, Lake Lugano and Lake Como
- ✔ Centovalli narrow-gauge railway excursion to Locarno, Switzerland
- ✔ Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- ✔ Services of an English-speaking representative

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/EDD121

8 days, by AIR from **£839pp**

The advertised price is correct as of 25 September 2017 and is based upon departure from Birmingham airport on 15 April 2018.

†We have included the current flight price within the above package price. Should the cost of flights change the package price may vary. The final price will be confirmed to you at time of booking.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Terraced property with no chain is ideal family home

An ideal family home, 18 Chiltern Close, Halesowen, is a terraced property with three good-sized bedrooms, a modern dining kitchen and a good-sized lounge.

Having double glazing and central heating, it is for sale through Trinity Property at £202,000 with no chain.

In more detail the entrance hallway has a door leading to an inner hallway.

The lounge has a feature fireplace and a door leading to the kitchen/diner. This is an open plan room with a range of wall and base units, a single mixer tap with drainer and a double glazed sliding door to the rear garden.

Upstairs can be found the family bathroom with a bath and a separate shower cubicle. Of the three bedrooms, two are double and one is a single.

This home lies in a sought-after and popular cul-de-sac location. It has off-road parking to the front and a low maintenance garden with a patio and astroturf.

This is a beautifully finished property, said a spokesman for the selling agents, Trinity Property.

Trinity Property aim to bring a fresh, friendly and honest approach to selling, buying and letting property within the Dudley and Stourbridge area.

Offering free market appraisals, great EPC prices, all aspects of Property Letting and Management, they are based in central Dudley and cover Kingswinford, Wordsley, Netherton, Sedgley, Tipton and Tividale and more, with a business built on recommendation.

A spokesman said: "With many years of experience to bring to the table, you can expect great service at the right price. We can offer you internet marketing on Rightmove, OnTheMarket, TrinityProperty.net and others, as well as local and regional marketing in a variety of newspapers."

They work with an independent financial advisor, Laura Thorton from Simply Mortgages, and can recommend local solicitors who know the area.

Their lettings department can offer full property management, rent collection and tenant-find services, with rent guarantees and the Unique Rent On Time available.

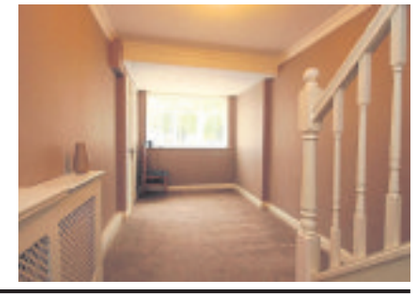
HALESOWEN £202,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Trinity Property
TEL: 01384 213395
EMAIL: dudley@trinityproperty.net

KEY FEATURES

- Terraced house
- Three good-sized bedrooms
- Spacious hallway
- Good-sized lounge
- Low maintenance garden



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Bilston
Stockton Court

NEW

A one bedroom top floor studio apartment. Offering off road parking, the property offers a kitchen, bathroom/WC, lounge and double bedroom. Electric heating and double glazing. EPC G DSS OK, no pets.

£295 PCM & Fees

DUDLEY
Southgate Way

NEW

Modern two bedroom apartment located within walking distance of to Dudley Town. The property has an open plan lounge with fitted kitchen to include integrated oven and hob. Has bathroom with one double and one single bedroom. The property is unfurnished , No Dss. No pets. EPC - C

£475 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY
Himley Road

NEW

A development of immaculately presented one and two bedroom recently refurbished modernised flats. AVAILABLE NOW situated on the Himley road within walking distance of Dudley town centre. Newly fitted kitchens including integrated oven/hobs. Gas central heating, Modernised Bathroom Suite, NO DSS, No Pets, EPC D, Viewing is highly recommended call now to register your interest! Prices range from £495 pcm to £595pcm.

£475-£535 PCM & Fees

NETHERTON
Halesowen Road

NEW

A two bedroom first floor flat, large living room, two double bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom with shower over bath. Parking available at rear of property. Housing benefits considered with a guarantor. NO Pets. EPC - G, Available June 2017.

£395 PCM & Fees

BILSTON
Edge Street

NEW

A one bed first floor apartment, newly decorated throughout, with double glazing and electric heating. Having a lounge/diner kitchen with a bathroom/WC and shower over the bath, and a good sized bedroom. Unfurnished, available now for long term. EPC C

£400 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY
Hackett Drive

NEW INSTRUCTION

A fabulous coach house style apartment offering two bedroom and open plan living space. This lovely home simply must be viewed to appreciate what it has to offer. This coach house benefits from an attractive fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, open plan lounge and dining area. Leading off to two bedrooms and bathroom. Outside benefits from two storage cupboards and allocated parking area. NO DSS. NO PETS EPC B

£525 PCM & FEES

Tipton
Queens Road

TO LET

A beautifully presented family home within walking distance of the local park, good transport links nearby. Semi detached, good sized lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner, conservatory to rear, upstairs has three bedrooms (two doubles and a single) house bathroom/WC. Low maintenance rear garden, off road parking to the front, alarmed. Unfurnished, available from the 29th of September for long term. No DSS, no pets. EPC C

£625 PCM & FEES

Tipton
Toll End Road

NEW

A professional house share, one room left! Fully furnished. Shared kitchen with appliances, wifi available. Accommodation is over two floors. Short term lets considered, no DSS, no pets. All bills included, deposit and references required. EPC C

£110 P/W & Fees

DUDLEY
Parkway Road

NEW

Trinity Property are happy to announce available a Converted five room house share -situated within easy reach of Dudley town centre. a Contemporary Fully Furnished Double Room, supplied furnished with brand new furniture Wardrobe, double bed, chest of drawers, bedside cabinet, NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED!! Bright, Contemporary Communal Kitchen, With Friendly, happy professional housemates, Very Low cost to move straight in! Bills Included! Council Tax, Gas, Water & Communal Electricity - FREE Hi Speed Wi-Fi- Broadband Included, Close to all local amenities and Public Transport Links - Sorry No DSS,All Friendly Working Professional Tenants. Low Fees.....move in now! CALL NOW to register your interest

£86.53 PER WEEK & FEES

DUDLEY
Highgate Road

TO LET

Trinity Property are delighted to announce this fully furnished converted house share with three rooms available to let -situated within easy reach of Merryhill Shopping centre as well as access to Nearby transport links. All rooms are double rooms.. all rooms are fully furnished with furniture, exclusive to all having a en suite included, double glazing, central heating.There is a shared fully fitted kitchen available with appliances such as a cooker, fridge, microwave and freezer, and a pleasant rear

£87.50 PER WEEK

BRIERLEY HILL
Byrchen Moor Gar-

LET

A modern, end terraced two bedroom house with off road parking, low maintenance garden to the rear, double glazing and central heating. Having a lounge, dining kitchen and conservatory on the ground floor, and two good-sized bedrooms on the first floor. Alarmed, unfurnished, available November 2014. No DSS. EPC D

£535 PCM & Fees

WOLVERHAMPTON
Needwood Close

LET

A 2 Bed Mid Terrace house with double glazing, having a large lounge, Separate Kitchen, Upstairs house Bathroom and WC, 2 Double Bedrooms, Front and back gardens. EPC E

£525 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY
Lavender Road

TO LET

Trinity Property are happy to announce we have a recent refurbished converted house share with two double rooms and one single room all fully furnished. Shared kitchen with washing machine and fridge/freezer, two bathrooms, wifi throughout. Accommodation is over two floors, beautifully decorated throughout, each room includes a double bed a wardrobe and a Chest of drawers, patio and large sized garden area to rear. Excellent transport links and shops nearby. Short term lets considered, no DSS, no pets, EPC C, All bills included, NO DEPOSIT required.

£85 P/W & Fees

PENSNETT
High Street

NEW INSTRUCTION

Trinity Property are happy to announce this beautifully converted five room house share -situated within easy reach of Russells Hall Hospital as well as Nearby to Merryhill Shopping Centre. A range of rooms (all double rooms) over two floors, all rooms have their own en suite WC/shower room and are fully furnished with modern furniture, double glazing, central heating and a fridge. There is a shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer, and a pleasant rear garden, Parking available nearby. All bills included in the rent aswell as WIFI , long and short term lets available, no deposit, low admin fees. No DSS or pets. AVAILABLE NOW!

£100-£115 PCM & FEES

NETHERTON
Halesowen Road

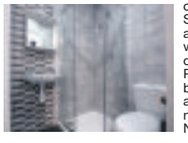
TO LET

A one bedroom ground floor flat. Open plan lounge/kitchen. kitchen includes cooker. Walk in shower & separate toilet/sink. One double bedroom. Economy 7 storage heaters. Double glazing. Unfurnished. No pets. No DSS. EPC F

£340 PCM & FEES

SEDGLEY
Brook Street

TO LET



A six room house share -beautifully converted and within easy reach of Sedgley village. A range of rooms (all double rooms) over three floors with an exclusive loft apartent. All rooms have ensuite WC/shower room and are fully furnished with modern furniture, double glazing, central heating and a fridge. Shared fully fitted kitchen available with cooker, microwave and freezer. Rear garden with a shed for storage. Parking available nearby. All bills included in the rent, long and short term lets available, no deposit, low admin fees. No DSS or pets. EPC D

£100 P/W & Fees

DUDLEY
Attingham Drive

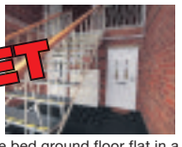
NEW

A modern ground floor bed sit/studio with bedroom/lounge, kitchen area and WC/Shower room. Recently decorated wit new flooring. Part furnished. Allocating parking space. Available to view. No Dss. No pets. EPC C

£385 PCM & FEES

Tipton
Oak Close

LET



A beautifully presented one bed ground floor flat in a popular cul-de-sac location, near Tipton town centre. Off road parking, near bus routes and shops. Having double glazing, modern electric heating (including remote control electric fire!), good-sized lounge, double bedroom, modern fitted kitchen, bath with shower over and separate WC. Unfurnished, available now for long term. No pets, no DSS. EPC D

£435 PCM & FEES

DUDLEY
Kent Street

LET

A first floor, self contained flat in a semi-detached building, with double glazing and electric heating. Having a good sized-lounge/diner, double bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom/WC with a shower over the bath. No pets. Unfurnished, AVAILABLE NOW for long term rental. Off road parking to rear by arrangement. NO DSS, EPC rating F.

£410PCM & FEES

DUDLEY
Ruiton Street

TO LET

A modern, ground floor office suite with two main offices, separate kitchen and WC. BT Broadband connection available. Secure parking to the rear, available now to view.
Main office is 16'2" x 11'11"
Annexe (off main office) is 6'9" x 6'9"
WC/Kitchen area 4'9" x 7'3"
Rear office 13'8" x 11'

£500 PCM & fees

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Wollaston Gerald Road

We are pleased to offer this beautifully presented modern three bedroom detached property with double glazing and central heating, with driveway and single garage to the front, the property is fitted out to a very high standard. Comprising of modern fitted kitchen, large lounge/diner. On the first floor you have a family bathroom/WC. Three good sized bedrooms, Garden to the rear, viewing highly recommended, NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D

£239,950

DUDLEY Poplar Green

We are pleased to offer this three-bedroom semi-detached family home with double glazing and central heating. It has a garden to the front with a path leading to the front door, internally the property offers a good sized lounge with a glazed door leading to the dining room, with a fitted kitchen off. There is a utility room off the kitchen with access to both the front and the rear of the property with plenty of storage, and a downstairs WC. On the first floor, the landing leads to three bedrooms (two doubles,

£109,950

Dudley King Edmunds Street

We are pleased to offer this splendid, three bedroom detached, double fronted family home in a pleasant location with views to front and side. Outside there is a driveway for up to three cars and a good-szied garage to the side. Inside, the property offers an airy, light dining kitchen and lounge with windows on two sides, a downstairs WC and under-stairs storage. On the first floor there are three good sized double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC. The Master bedroom also has an en-suite shower/WC. The private garden to the rear has a patio area and lawn with access to the side gate leading to the drive. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE APPRECIATED. EPC C

£215,000

Dudley Oakham Road

A great opportunity to purchase an outstanding Three Bedroom Detached house on one of the area's most sought after and desirable roads. This impressive property offers very well maintained accommodation having some fine features and briefly comprising: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, superb Through Lounge/Dining Area with bay windows to the front and rear, fine Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, spacious Landing, Three good-sized bedrooms, refitted Bathroom, adjoining Garaging and in our opinion delightful, excellent sized Gardens. An early viewing is essential to appreciate this wonderful family home.

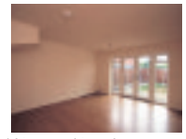
£328,000

Dudley Bennetts Hill

- a surprisingly spacious end terraced traditional home
- Having high ceilings thoughout
- kitchen. diner with separate lounge
- two good sized double bedrooms
- useful cellar and boarded loft with large upstairs landing
- 'sun trap' rear garden with patio area and access to alleyway
- no upward chain
- viewing recommended
- EPC D

£95,950

Dudley Parkes Hall Road



A modern three bedroom mid terraced townhouse on a development of just 10 houses. Offering lounge/diner, kitchen, cloakroom, on the ground floor, master bedroom with en-suite and fitted wardrobe, two further bedrooms and family bathroom on the first and second floors. Having double glazing and central heating, with allocated parking to the rear for two vehicles, garden to rear. No upward chain, EPC B- Property marketed with show home photos

£135,000

Halesowen Chiltern Close

A three bed family home in a popular cul-de-sac location, with double glazing and central heating, off road parking to the front, low maintenance patio/astroturf garden to rear. Having a spacious hallway with stairs to the first floor, good-sized lounge, open plan fitted kitchen/diner, on the first floor there are three bedrooms, two doubles and one single, with a house bathroom having a bath, separate shower and WC. Beautifully finished, ideal family home - viewing highly recommended. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC C

£202,000

TIVIDALE Aston Road

This two bedroom semi detached home is being offered for sale as an investment opportunity to Landlords or new investors. This property is currently rented and if offered for sale with the current sitting tenant. The property is currently achieving £475 Per calendar month.
Benefitting from fitted kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Having off road parking to the fore and rear garden. Being an investment opportunity there will be No Upward Chain.

£110,000

TIPTON Walker Street

NEWLY REFURBISHED!!! We are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid-terraced house that is in need of minor modernisation. The property is within walking distance of local shops and close to public transport links. The property offers off road parking leading to the entrance porch, hallway. Good size lounge and kitchen with a separate storage room and family bathroom. First floor has doors leading to the two bedroom. With an enclosed rear garden. MUST BE VIEW. EPC TBC

£100,000

Brierley Hill High Street

A splendid, spacious detached property with beautiful gardens front and rear, briefly comprising a large paved driveway to the front with borders, entrance lobby leading to entrance hall with stairs to the first floor and doors off to: front lounge, rear sitting room, dining room leading to fitted kitchen, and utility room and WC to the rear. With covered access to the rear garden to the side of the property and a gated driveway. Upstairs the spacious landing leads to four good sized bedrooms, all with built-in wardrobes, and a house bathroom/WC with separate shower. The splendid gardens to the rear have been lovingly maintained and comprise patio with paths, greenhouse, shed and workshop with light and power (ideal home office!) with steps to a terraced vegetable garden and seating area to the rear. Ideal family home, with potential! Viewing highly recommended, EPC E

£235,000

Dudley Manderston Close

A spacious ground floor apartment with double glazing and central heating, with off road allocated parking to the rear and garage. Internally the property has a spacious lounge, with breakfast kitchen off. There are two good sized bedrooms (one single, one double) with a storage cupboard, and bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Communal gardens to the front, with great views! No upward chain, ideal for first time buyers or investors. Viewing highly recommended.

£103,000

Dudley Ripley Grove

We are delighted to offer for sale this second (top) floor two bedroom apartment in this sought after and convenient cul-de-sac location within easy reach of local amenities, schools and public transport links to Dudley, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. The impressive, spacious accommodation is well presented and comprises ample living space and well-appointed bedrooms. This property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking on a private car park with visitors spaces. This immaculately presented apartment has a hallway leading to two bedrooms, fitted bathroom/WC and living room/fitted kitchen with dining area. The property must be viewed to appreciate the space and layout - don't miss this one! EPC B.

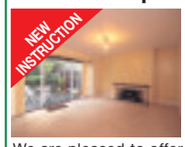
£99,950

Brierley Hill Bagleys Road

We are pleased to offer this one bedroom first floor apartment in a popular location, within a short distance of Merry Hill and with good transport links nearby, with an extended lease. Having double glazing and electric heating, the property offers a good sized lounge/diner with kitchen off, a double bedroom with built-in wardrobes and bathroom/WC with electric shower over the bath. Off road parking to the side and good storage, including loft space. Ideal for first time buyers or investor. Low service charge. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C

£62,000

Netherton Apline Drive



We are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi-detached family home. This property offers Off road parking to the front with access to the garage, good sized lounge, Kitchen diner. On the first floor landing there are three good sized bedrooms (two doubles one single) and house bathroom. To the rear of the property you have a good sized rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC-E

£170,000

Halesowen Clifton Road

We are pleased to offer this attractive two bedroomed end terrace with space to the side. The property offers a hallway with doors leading to the lounge and kitchen. On the first floor landing you have two good sized bedrooms, house bathroom and airing cupboard. There is a maintainable rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D

£130,000

GREAT BRIDGE Fisher Street

A two bed split level maisonette on the 2nd and 3rd floor of a purpose built block. Having double glazing and central heating, the property comprises a fitted kitchen, lounge/dining room, two good sized double bedrooms and a house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. Ideal for first time buyers or investors, this is priced to sell. EPC TBC

£55,000

WOLVERHAMPTON Greenock Crescent

A modern, spacious, well maintained ground floor apartment situated just off the Birmingham New Road. Having double glazing, central heating, open plan dining/lounge/fitted kitchen. The property has secure entry via intercom, the hallway has doors off to the lounge, bathroom/WC and bedrooms, with a good sized storage room. The double main bedroom has an en-suite shower/WC off, and the second bedroom is a good sized room. There are pleasant communal gardens to the rear and allocated

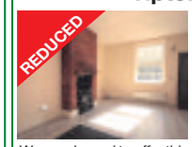
£99,950

Dudley Manderston Close

We are pleased to offer this well presented, stylish and modern first floor apartment with two bedrooms offering surprisingly spacious accommodation benefiting from central heating and double glazing. Quietly situated at the head of a cul-de-sac in a popular residential area local to amenities including shops, schools and public transport services. The well maintained accommodation briefly comprises: - entrance hall, room, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property is offered for sale with no upward chain. MUST BE VIEWS. EPC C

£100,000

Tipton Tipton Road



We are pleased to offer this splendid two-bedroom canal-side cottage. In a unique hidden location, the property offers a spacious open plan lounge/fitted kitchen/diner, with downstairs WC. On the first floor there is a shower/WC and two double bedrooms. There is a private courtyard to the rear with brick shed. Double Glazed with efficient modern electric heating, no upward chain. MUST BE VIEWED!! EPC F.

£124,900

Dudley Wrens Nest Road

We are pleased to offer a spacious property, originally a four bedroom semi- detached now converted to accommodate 5 bedrooms currently operating as a HMO. The property offers two bathrooms (one up and one down) a kitchen and a communal area. The property has potential to be converted back to a four bedroom or left as a HMO. Space to develop the driveway for multiple cars. PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS AND INVESTORS. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC E

£125,000

BILSTON Bow Street

We are pleased to offer this modern two bedroom semi-detached home. Within 5 Minutes walking distance of Bilston town centre, with good transport links to Wolverhampton and beyond. Off road parking to the front of the property with side access to the rear, the property offers a good sized lounge leading to a modern fitted kitchen/diner and with stairs to the first floor landing. Upstairs has two double bedrooms and house bathroom/WC with shower over the bath. To the rear there is a small patio area with lawned rear garden and double gates for further off road parking. MUST BE VIEWED! NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC-D

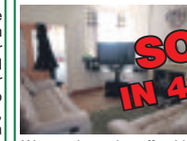
£110,000

DUDLEY Attingham Drive

Offered for sale a one bedroom Modern ground floor apartment situated within a popular estate Close to Dudley town Centre, comprising of open plan kitchen/lounge, Double bedroom and shower room. With one allocated parking space and guest parking. The property is double glazed with electric storage heaters throughout. EPC - tbc

£80,000

Dudley Lloyd Street



We are pleased to offer this two bedroom terraced home. Fully central heated and double glazed The property offer two reception rooms and kitchen on the ground floor with access to the rear garden. On the first floor you have two double bedroom and family bathroom. Perfect investment!! Being sold with tenants already in pay £450 PCM. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D. IDEAL INVESMENT OPPERTUNITY.

£69,960

DUDLEY Dando Road

We are pleased to offer this two bedroom terraced home. The property has a lounge and dining room, fitted kitchen, with stairs leading to the first floor from the lounge downstairs WC. The first floor landing has doors off leading to two good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom with separate WC. Having central heating and double glazing. There is a courtyard to the rear of the property. This spacious property is ideal as an investment property or for a first time buyer. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D

£85,000

Five-bedroom property close to village centre

SEDGLEY
£675,000

This beautiful five-bedroomed property in Dudley Road, Sedgley, is on the market with Wakeman Estate Agents at offers in the region of £675,000.

An exceptional individual detached family home, it has spacious accommodation over three floors, with the added benefit of three reception rooms, impressive conservatory, extensive breakfast kitchen, utility room and playroom. There are high quality fittings throughout.

Situated opposite Coronation Gardens within a short walking distance of Sedgley village centre and a wide range of amenities, the property would be ideal for a shared family home

To book that all important viewing call Wakeman on 01384 459999.

Well-presented dormer-style detached home in a cul-de-sac

SEDGLEY
£279,950 <<<

A well-presented modern dormer-style detached residence, 6 Charnwood Avenue, Sedgley, lies in a favoured cul-de-sac, within walking distance to the village.

Being convenient for bus routes to Wolverhampton and Dudley, it is for sale through Hunters at £279,950 with no chain. The property has been altered and enhanced to provide spacious accommodation. This briefly comprises an inviting entrance hallway, with the lounge off to the left, opening to the dining room and then wrapping round to the kitchen.

There is also a house bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor, while upstairs there are two further double bedrooms and a Jack'n'Jill connecting en-suite.

Call 01902 672274.

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8 The Croft, Dudley
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
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66 Milton Street, Brierley Hill
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £30,000+ (plus fees)

6 Cygnet Road, West Bromwich
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £39,000-£44,000 (plus fees)

39 Rudge Av., Wolverhampton
3 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £45,000+ (plus fees)

196 High Street, Pensnett
2 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £40,000+ (plus fees)

10 Ash Drive, West Bromwich
3 Bed Mid-Terraced House
Guide: £40,000+ (plus fees)

17 St. Marks Road, Smethwick
4 Bed Semi-Detached House
Guide: £150,000+ (plus fees)

15 Hallam Street, West Bromwich
Investment Property with 6 Bedsits
Current Gross Income: £16,640pa
Guide: £99,000+ (plus fees)

78 St Annes Road/99 A, B & C High Street, Cradley Heath
Investment Property of 9 Flats
Current Gross Income: £47,642.52pa.
Guide: £325,000+ (plus fees)

9 Dimmocks Avenue, Bilston
3 Bed Investment Property
Current Gross Income: £7,200pa
Guide: £72,000-£74,000 (plus fees)

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Sale of four apartments is a great buy for investors

DUDLEY
£399,950 <<<

An investment opportunity, these four spacious apartments in a freehold Grade II listed Georgian building in Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property at £399,950.

Having been beautifully converted into four flats, these consist of three two-bedroomed apartments and one one-bedroomed apartment.

Fully let, it is in Dudley Town Centre, within walking distance of the Dudley bus station, the high street and Dudley college campuses.

It is also within a short drive of Wolverhampton, Birmingham and the Black Country.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395.

Three-bedroom house for sale with no chain

DUDLEY
£135,000

A modern three-bedroomed mid terraced town house in Parkes Hall Road, Dudley, is for sale through Trinity Property now at £135,000 with no chain.

A modern three-bedroom mid-terraced property on a development of just ten houses, its accomodation briefly comprises a lounge/diner, a kitchen, a cloakroom/WC on the ground floor. There is a master bedroom with an en-suite and fitted wardrobe, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom on the first and second floors. The home has double glazing and central heating, comes with allocated parking to the rear for two vehicles plus a garden to rear including a decked area.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213 395.

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CGI of The Allington 2 bedroom home at Woodlands. Photographs of typical Kier Living showhome interiors. Elevations and finishes may vary.*Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

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LOWER GORNAL, Water Road

Well presented, EXTENDED DETACHED within walking distance of GORNAL VILLAGE. Benefiting from having NO UPWARD CHAIN and drive offering ample parking, this good-sized family home boasts; porch, hallway, breakfast-kitchen, living room, conservatory, guest W/C, FIVE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, separate W/C, and gas central heating with enclosed rear garden. VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £269,950

Kingswinford, Grantley Crescent

Enjoying a broad corner setting, this THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED AND REPLANNED, TWO/THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME forms part of the popular Valleyfields development. Including Fore Gardens, Block Paved Drive, Garage, Externally approached Utility and Broad Rear Garden. EPC E

No upward chain

£239,950

LOWER GORNAL, The Alley

Situated on corner position in the popular area of Lower Gornal this DETACHED property is within walking distance of Gornal Village. As well as having gas central heating & double glazing this family home also boasts; hall, living room, dining room, fitted-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, stunning shower room, detached garage, greenhouse, gardens to front side & rear with parking for multiple vehicles. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £234,950

WALL HEATH, Brook Street

An INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE DETACHED FAMILY HOME, superbly located with countryside views, offering GENEROUS accommodation, including THREE VERY GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS. The property is set back beyond the BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY with GARAGE and a GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN. EPC D

No upward chain

£234,950

SEDGLEY, Dudley Road (Off Algar Grange)

NO UPWARD CHAIN. REFURBISHED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached dormer bungalow within level walking distance of village. 'Transformed' recently to an exemplary 'AS NEW' specification comprising entrance vestibule, hall, lounge, dining room (occasional 3rd bedroom), bedroom, bathroom, refitted kitchen. To first floor large bedroom & shower room. Parking, rear garden. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £219,950

DUDLEY, The Parade

NO UPWARD CHAIN. SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached property opposite parkland & close to schools/amenities comprising; hall (extensive storage), through lounge/ living room, extended (sideways & to rear) 'hub of the house' 20'7" dining kitchen, utility room, cloakroom. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Parking for 3 vehicles, secluded rear garden/side access. EPC:D SEDGLEY

PRICE: £190,000

WALL HEATH, Cross Street

A DECEPTIVE & EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME superbly located, close to village shops/ schools, offering a GENEROUS layout including THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, INTEGRAL GARAGE and with an attractive rear garden. EPC D

£189,950

SEDGLEY, Northway

FLEXIBLE ROOM ARRANGEMENTS, Gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached dormer bungalow that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but would benefit from some updating backing on to school grounds comprising; porch, hall, cupboard, lounge, kitchen, shower room, two bedrooms. To first floor large double bedroom (together with further loft potential). drive, garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £180,000

KINGSWINFORD, Monteagle Drive

A WELL PRESENTED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE which enjoys a sought after position within Charterfields, with a private/ sunny rear garden, offering SPACIOUS layout including TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (potential three bedroom layout). Set beyond the FRONT/SIDE DRIVEWAY with GARAGE .EPC C

No upward chain

£175,000

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

TREMENDOUS YEAR FOR TAYLORS SEDGLEY OFFICE!

National data confirms the West Midlands property market has certainly regained momentum this year with far more optimism & confidence, and prices have increased significantly.

By the end of September,

TAYLORS SEDGLEY OFFICE

had successfully **sold 24%** more properties than September 2016!

DUDLEY, Hillmeads Drive, Oakham

A wonderfully presented DETACHED property situated in the extremely popular OAKHAM area of Dudley. This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boast a spacious entrance hall, well-appointed living room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, study, guest W/C, utility, FOUR BEDROOMS, ensuite to master, family bathroom, fantastic enclosed rear garden, double garage with driveway to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL to fully appreciate this OUTSTANDING home. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £329,950

LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached constructed in the 1970's to replicate a 'cottage' which formally occupied this site with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS & within walking distance of the village comprising 22'2" lounge (with brick fireplace incorporating old beam), 15ft dining kitchen, store, original cellar, side lobby. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Large garage/workshop, extensive parking, garden. EPC:E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £230,000

New

COSELEY, Lansdowne Close

An extremely well presented traditional semi-detached property located on the very much sought after BRAMFORD ESTATE in Coseley. Benefiting from having gas central heating and double glazing, this EXTENDED family home also comprises of; entrance hallway, living room, extended dining room, kitchen, utility, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden, driveway to front and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £174,950

KINGSWINFORD, Standhills Road

A INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE SEMI-DETACHED DORMER BUNGALOW which is very well placed in a convenient location, offering a VERY WELL PRESENTED and GENEROUS layout of accommodation which includes a CONSERVATORY and TWO LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC D

No upward chain — Offers in Excess of £165,000

New

DUDLEY, Ripley Grove

Meticulously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed intermediate 'starter home' with superb distant views at head of cul-de-sac briefly comprising; hall, fitted cloakroom, kitchen with range of high gloss cream finish units & integrated appliances, living/dining room (with double French doors out to the garden), store. Two double bedrooms (one with double wardrobes),shower room (potential bathroom). Delightful rear garden, parking. EPC TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £150,000

New

LOWER GORNAL, Wealdstone Drive

Superbly presented intermediate property situated in a fantastic position with open views to front & benefiting from central heating & double glazing. This good-sized family home also boasts; porch, hallway, well-appointed lounge, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, stunning re-fitted bathroom, rear garden offering secure gated parking and enclosed seating/ family area, & gardens to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £149,950

WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD, Barton Lane

A GENEROUS & EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM END TOWNHOUSE with upstairs bathroom, GARAGE and a PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, well placed within a sought after cul-de-sac, with walkway towards Tesco Kingswinford & Wall Heath School, offering a SPACIOUS layout including a ground floor wet room. EPC C

No upward chain — £144,950

DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

OUTSTANDING SPECIFICATION! Only recently comprehensively refurbished to an exemplary standard throughout; a gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, "starter home" in favoured district briefly comprising; reception hall, refitted kitchen, 16'7" lounge (with patio doors), two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with contemporary white suite/chrome detailing, Lengthy garden, parking. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £140,000

DUDLEY, Attingham Drive

Superbly presented, intermediate situated on the popular ATTINGHAM DRIVE development in Dudley. Ideal for first time buyers or families, this THREE BEDROOM benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and also boasts; hall, living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, bathroom, enclosed rear garden & parking. Viewing essential! EPC: C SEDGLEY.

New price — WAS £144,950, NOW £139,950

New

DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

NO UPWARD CHAIN - A gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed semi detached upon a fine wide plot (gated parking and further potential) set in cul-de-sac and comprising reception hall, through living/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, extensive parking, neat garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £137,950

New

WOODSETTON, Marlborough Road

A wonderfully presented intermediate residence located in the popular area of Woodsetton, Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing this good-sized family home also comprises of; porch, living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, en-bloc garage, enclosed rear garden with gardens to fore. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950

SEDGLEY, High Holborn

SPECTACULAR, gas centrally heated, double glazed 'duplex' apartment on two floors forming part of a "landmark" building of great character (with gated vehicular & pedestrian access) comprising; hall (with spiral staircase up), cloakroom, store, lounge , large breakfast kitchen. To upper level 2 double bedrooms (one with bathroom & tother with shower room en suite), and a second entrance. Shared roof decking, gated grounds, allocated parking.EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £125,000

COSELEY, Broad Lanes

GATED REAR ACCESS - NO UPWARD CHAIN. An extremely well presented traditional, semi-detached property which benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. A well-proportioned starter home with parking to rear, also boasts; TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE BEDROOMS, refitted kitchen, utility area, attractive bathroom, rear garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY.

WAS £114,950, NOW £112,500

DUDLEY, Corser Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Within walking distance of Milking Bank, and all associated amenities, a gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler), uPVC double glazed THREE BEDROOM intermediate 'starter home' in popular district briefly comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, lounge with bay, transverse dining kitchen with bay. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Parking to front (for one car), and good size sheltered rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £110,000, NOW £105,000

BILSTON, Alice Street

A well-proportioned modern ground floor apartment located within walking distance of Bilston centre. As well as having double glazing and secure gated parking this ideal first time buyer property/ bungalow alternative also boastes; large hallway, living room, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS with ENSUITE to master, bathroom and heating. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price — Offers in excess of £90,000

LOWER GORNAL, Temple Street

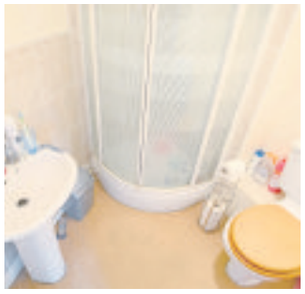
NO UPWARD CHAIN. A gas centrally heated (combi boiler), uPVC double glazed EXTENDED intermediate terrace for improvement. Conveniently situated within walking distance of the village, the accommodation includes; living room, 17'8" dining kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, cellar. Two bedrooms. Garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £93,000, NOW £85,000

WOODSETTON, Roper Walk

An APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS and much enhanced centrally heated UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR double bedroom flat with OPEN ASPECT to front set in quiet backwater shared gardens and allocated parking. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, upgraded kitchen, 16'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, double bedroom, upgraded bathroom with white suite. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

New price — WAS £69,950, NOW £62,950



A charming two-bedroom second floor apartment

SUTTON COLDFIELD
£129,950 <<<

This charming two-bedroomed apartment in Chester Court on Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield, lies on the second floor and has excellent living accommodation.

Set in a popular area of Birmingham, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at over £129,950.

You have one allocated parking spot with this property.

The entrance to the apartment is secure and has an intercom system available for any visitors.

Access to the second floor is provided by stairs.

The area and surrounding location offers amenities on Boldmere Road such as restaurants, shops and post offices.

For further information contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

Modern house on sale with no chain

BELBROUGHTON
£199,950

A modern two-bedroomed home situated close to the heart of Belbroughton, 23 Nash Lane, Belbroughton, is for sale through Wakeman now at £199,950 with no chain.

Ideal for either a first-time buyer or anyone down-sizing, the gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation is well-proportioned and has parking on the driveway to the front together with a further allocated parking space in a nearby courtyard.

The property is situated within a short walking distance from the centre of Belbroughton, yet it is quietly positioned and has a small private rear garden.

Contact Wakeman on 01384 459999.

K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 10TH OCTOBER 2017

LEA MANOR HOLYHEAD ROAD ALBRIGHTON WV7 3BX

Residential Development Site - Countryside location

Planning Permission for Seven Dwellings

Viewing by appointment
Guide £325,000

6 & 6a HUGHES AVENUE BRADMORE

Investment.

Two Flats close to shops, transport & Bantock Park
GF - Hall, 7 Lounge Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedroom, Shower Room, gas ch. Currently let £525 pcm
FF (vacant) - Hall, Lounge Dining Kitchen, Double Bedroom, smart Bathroom

Guide £144,000/£149,000

Large gardens, off road parking. Vacant. epc D68/E41
Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October at 12noon

9 PARK DRIVE GOLDTHORN PARK

Individual design ripe for modernisation - generous plot
Three bedrooms, additional basement rooms, 30ft. Garage
Attractive gardens. epc E44

Guide £148,000/£153,000

Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October at 9.30am

HOMELEIGH WOLVERHAMPTON STREET WILLENHALL

House, Yard & Buildings

Near town centre, gas heating ,majority double glazing, Porch, 2 Reception, Store, Kitchen, two Bedrooms, Attic Room, Large Bathroom.
Outside WC & Shower, Store, large Vehicular Yard, Workshop (approx. 1,900 sq. Ft.) epc F38/G300

Guide £118,000/£123,000

Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October at 10.30am

21a CARDIFF STREET PENN FIELDS

Spacious detached, Cloakroom,
2 Reception, smart fitted Kitchen,
Three Bedrooms (on en suite) Bathroom,
generous loft space
Garden, Parking. epc C79

Guide £128,000

Viewing Friday & Saturday 6th and 7th October at 10.45am

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION
(subject to conditions and prior sale)

On TUESDAY
10th OCTOBER 2017 @ 6.30 p.m.
at The Ramada Park Hall Hotel
Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton. WV4 5AJ

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MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

Aston Martin's eye-catching GT put through paces

To dismiss the DB11 V8 as an entry-level version of Aston Martin's latest grand tourer wouldn't be entirely fair. Sure, with a retail price of £144,900 it's £13,000 cheaper than its V12-powered stablemate, but according to Aston this is an entirely different beast.

While the full-fat DB11 V12 was designed for crossing continents in supreme comfort at a significant rate of knots, Aston Martin claims the V8 model is the one to go for if you're a keen driver. Yes, it's about 100bhp down on the V12, but the lack of those four extra cylinders right over the front of the car mean the V8 is 115kg lighter, and it also means this particular Aston Martin has a weight distribution of 49:51 as opposed to its big brother's 51:49.

The clue is in the name. The most important change with the DB11 V8 is, well, the V8. Aston Martin got its hands on the AMG-sourced unit thanks to its working relationship with the Daimler Group. But more on this phenomenal engine later.

Aside from that new engine, the changes you get with the DB11 V8 are rather subtle. Aesthetically, its darker headlamp bezels, different vents in the bonnet, and darker tail lights are the main alterations the more eagle-eyed will pick out. These changes have been introduced to give the DB11 V8 a slightly more sporting and athletic image than the V12 model.

Although the DB11's V8 engine may have been sourced from Mercedes' slightly mad in-house tuners AMG, it hasn't just been dropped into the British grand tourer as is. Aston Martin has fitted its own air intake, exhaust and wet sump lubrication systems, and has worked to "Astonise" the German engine.

The result of this tinkering is a 4.0-litre, twin-turbocharged V8 that develops 503bhp and 675Nm of torque. This allows the DB11 to complete the benchmark sprint from 0-60mph

In a word, the DB11 V8 is sublime. Aston Martin has built a thoroughly accomplished GT car that's not only devastatingly quick in a straight line, but seriously impressive through the twisty stuff as well.

The steering is precise and has a healthy weight to it, allowing you to point the car's nose into a bend safe in the knowledge that it won't suddenly wash out. Aston has also worked a trick with the DB11's damping. The set-up is soft enough to allow the car to ride comfortably over imperfections in the surface of the road, but firm enough to minimise body roll through fast corners.

Out on the motorway, the DB11 really comes into its element. It simply eats the miles up, and is an incredibly comfortable car to cover great distances in. The V8 engine has power on tap, and even in seventh gear it pulls astonishingly well.

If there's one thing an Aston Martin has to be, it's beautiful, and the DB11 is certainly a stunning thing to look at. Where its sister car, the Vanquish, is far more aggressive in its appearance, the DB11 is a much more elegant and classy GT.

Anyone who has spent time in a Mercedes will no doubt be met with a sense of deja vu, due to the infotainment system being lifted straight from the German manufacturer's model line-up (another fruit of Aston and Daimler's relationship).

Past that, though, the DB11 is all Aston Martin. There's leather all over the place, which has been sourced from cows raised in fields that aren't fenced in with barbed wire. According to Aston Martin, this helps to ensure the leather is of the highest quality. One thing's for sure: the DB11's cabin is a great place to spend time.

The DB11 V8 bears a recommended retail price of £144,900, so it's certainly not cheap. That said, it is intended to be an exclusive, luxurious GT car, so an affordable price tag was never going to be on the table.

As far as equipment goes, there's a full leather interior, an infotainment system with 12-inch LCD display, satellite navigation and 360-degree parking camera, to name but a few features. And if you think you'll tire of listening to the car's V8 soundtrack, you can also order your DB11 with a premium Bang & Olufsen audio system.

Although the DB11 V8 may be down four cylinders compared with the range-topping V12, by no means should you think that it's in any form a lesser car. Like the DB11 V12, it's a marvellous cross-continental grand tourer, but thanks to its new lightweight engine, the DB11 V8 is now more agile than ever. For those who value outright dynamic ability over challenging roads, this might just be the car to go for.

Honda gets top 20 ranking in world best brands

Honda is now one of the world's top 20 brands, according to research by Interbrand in its latest 'Best Global Brands' study. Honda has moved up by three per cent to be ranked as the 20th most valuable brand in the world. Interbrand puts its value at $22.696 billion.

"The power of the Honda brand highlights our influential position in the market," said Philip Ross, senior vice president of Honda Motor Europe. "A diverse range of new products, from the zero-emissions Clarity Fuel Cell to the award-winning Honda Civic Type R, showcase the significance of advanced technology to the Honda brand. The recently-announced 'Electric Vision' will fast-track a major brand advancement, bringing to market a host of new electrified vehicles from 2018."

Honda's recognition by Interbrand follows several landmark achievements for the company in 2016 as well as major news announcements this year.

Honda has confirmed that electrified technology will feature in every new car model launched in Europe.

Beyond automotive, Honda's brand power is bolstered by its advanced product range spanning aircraft, motorcycles, and power equipment, reinforcing its position as the largest engine manufacturer in the world.

In April 2017, the advanced light HondaJet set a new Miami-Panama speed record recognised by the National Aeronautical Association, and celebrated global first quarter deliveries that surpassed any other jet in its class. Elsewhere, Honda's expertise in robotics and autonomy helped it to launch the ingenious Miimo lawnmower in 2016.

ALSO THIS WEEK . . .

KIA STONIC READY FOR LAUNCH

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA IS CLASS ACT

ZOE'S SMALL PACKAGE IMPRESSES

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 5, 2017

Kia is all set for Stonic launch date

Kia's first offering in Europe's booming small CUV/SUV market, the Stonic will go on sale on October 23 and order books are open now.

There will be five versions at launch, based on two trim grades ('2' and 'First Edition') and three powertrains. The Stonic will be available with a 98bhp 1.4-litre multi-point injection petrol engine, a 118bhp 1.0-litre T-GDi (Turbocharged Gasoline Direct injection) unit and a 108bhp 1.6-litre CRDi turbodiesel. All models have a six-speed manual gearbox and feature ISG, Kia's intelligent engine stop/start system to prevent fuel being wasted and CO2 from being pumped into the air when the car is stationary in traffic.

Pricing will start at £16,295 for the 1.4-litre petrol grade '2', rising to £20,495 for the 'First Edition' 1.6 CRDi diesel.

Kia is entering the B-segment CUV/SUV market at exactly the right time. Annual sales of this segment in Europe are predicted to double from the 2016 figure of 1.1 million to 2.2 million by 2020.

Kia expects to sell 70,000 units across Europe in 2018, rising steadily to 100,000 a year during the car's lifetime. The UK will contribute at least 10 per cent of the total.

Buyers are moving into B-CUV/SUVs from superminis, small MPVs and three-door compact hatchbacks, which are now completely out of favour. Stonic, like the larger Sportage, which has been a phenomenal success, will attract customers from other brands and not expected to cannibalise sales from existing Kia models.

Stonic is based on the new Rio supermini and will be built on the same production line at Sohari in South Korea. Production capacity at the plant has been steadily ramped up to accommodate the new model.

Stonic is based on the Rio supermini

Stonic is slightly longer than Rio, at 4,140mm. It is also 70mm taller and rides 42mm higher from the ground. While the two cars share some mechanical components, Stonic has a bespoke body and interior. All models will be front-wheel drive.

Kia's decision to offer only mid- and high-grade versions of Stonic in the UK is in line with demand from both retail and fleet customers. The grade '2' Stonic will be available with all three engines, while First Edition is being offered with the efficient 1.0-litre T-GDi and 1.6-litre CRDi units.

All versions are generously equipped, with an extensive range of active safety features and up-to-the-minute connectivity in 'First Edition' versions. 'First Edition' models also have two-tone paintwork, with the roof, wing mirror casings and rear spoiler picked out in either black, lime green, red or orange, depending on the choice of main body colour, with corresponding accents around the lower centre console and display screen areas.

Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and Vehicle Stability Management (VSM) are standard. VSM is linked to Torque Vectoring, Straight Line Stability and Cornering Brake Control. All versions also have Hill-start Assist.

Stonic, like the larger Sportage, which has been a phenomenal success, will attract customers from other brands, not Kia models

Autonomous Emergency Braking and Lane Departure Warning System are standard in the 'First Edition' and optional on grade '2'. Autonomous Emergency Braking is linked to

The 'First Edition' also has Blind Spot Detection with Rear Cross Traffic Alert, to prevent the car from being driven into the path of a vehicle approaching from an angle out of the driver's eyesight.

There is a 7.0-inch display with a DAB radio and MP3 compatibility in grade '2', and in the 'First Edition' this is upgraded to a 7.0-inch touchscreen navigation and infotainment system featuring Kia Connected Services with TomTom. Android Auto and Apple CarPlay smartphone integration are standard across the range.

All models have 17-inch alloy wheels, air conditioning, all-round electric windows with an automatic function on the driver's side, roof rails, rear parking sensors, remote locking, electrically adjustable heated door mirrors, a 3.5-inch supervision cluster, Bluetooth with voice recognition and music streaming, automatic light control, bi-function projection headlamps and cornering lights and LED daytime running lights. There are body-coloured bumpers, door mirror casings and door handles, steering wheel-mounted audio controls, 60:40 split rear seats and a six-speaker audio system.

The 'First Edition' adds a smart key entry system and engine start/stop button, stainless steel pedals, black cloth and grey faux leather upholstery with colour accents, automatic air conditioning, LED rear lights, privacy glass on the rear side windows and tailgate, heated front seats and D-shaped steering wheel, chrome window trim and interior door handles and a dual-height luggage floor.

T WALL - USED CAR AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SALE

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12/12 **NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA** 5-dr, Silver, 30,000 miles £4,995
12/62 **NISSAN MICRA 1.2 ACENTA** 5-dr, White, 33,000 miles £5,495
12/62 **FIAT PANDA 1.0 TWINAIR LOUNGE** 5-dr, Blue, 30,000 miles £5,695
11/61 **CITROEN DS3 1.6 VTi DSTYLE+** 3-dr, Blue/Black, 40,000 miles £5,750
15/64 **VOLKSWAGEN 1.0 TAKE UP** 5-dr, Black, 10,000 miles £5,995
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12/12 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ACTIVE** 5-dr, Grey, 31,000 miles £6,495
11/61 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRI** 5-dr, Grey, 32,000 miles £6,495
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13/63 **MINI ONE 1.6** 3-dr, Brown, 57,000 miles £7,695
12/62 **HYUNDAI VELOSTER 1.6 GDI** 4-dr, Black, 33.000 miles £7,995
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14/14 **MITSUBISHI ASX 1.6** 5-dr, Silver, 37,000 miles £8,350
14/14 **SEAT LEON 1.6 TDI SE** 5-dr, Black, 47,000 miles £8,495
15/64 **FIAT PANDA 1.3 4X4** 5-dr, White, 19,000 miles £8,995
13/13 **NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 360** 5-dr, White, 60,000 miles £9,995
12/62 **VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 TSI** 2-dr, Convertible, White, 50,000 miles £10,495
16/65 **MAZDA 3 2.2 SE-L NAV** 5-dr, White, 37,000 miles £10,995
14/14 **MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0D COOPER S ALL4** White, 43,000 miles £10,995
12/62 **HYUNDAI IX35 2.0 CRDI PREMIUM** 5-dr, Blue, 31,000 miles £11,000
14/14 **KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI ISG** 5-dr, Blue, 40,000 miles £12,450
16/16 **JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 MULTIJET SPORT** 5-dr, Black, 11,000 miles £12,795
16/65 **MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV** 4-dr, White, 35,000 miles £12,895
16/65 **MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV** 4-dr, Automatic, Grey, 36,000 miles £12,895
15/65 **MAZDA 6 2.2D SE-L NAV ESTATE** Silver, 36,000 miles £13,495
14/14 **MERCEDES A-CLASS A180 1.6** 5-dr, Automatic, Silver, 11,000 miles £15,995

USED CARS JUST ARRIVED

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09/09 **CITROEN C1 VTR 1.0** 5-dr, Grey, 41,000 miles £3,995
11/11 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 EXCITE** 5-dr, Blue, 30,000 miles £4,995
13/13 **FORD KA 1.3 ZETEC** 3-dr, Red, 46,000 miles £5,495
10/60 **VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 SE** 5-dr, Black, 32,000 miles £6,995
13/62 **CITROEN DS3 1.6 DSTYLE+** 3-dr, Blue/Black, 33,000 miles £7,295
14/64 **CITROEN DS3 DSTYLE 1.6 HDI** 3-dr, Purple, 19,000 miles £8,995
14/64 **NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI ACENTA** 5-dr, Grey, 30,000 miles £9,995

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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MOTORHOMES

09/59 **MOOVEO P719** 4-Berth, Island Fixed Bed, 32,452 miles £24,995
08/58 **AUTOCRUISE STARSPIRIT** 2-Berth, U-Shaped Lounge, 25,329 miles £29,495
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VAUXHALL

Classy place to spend hours on road

By Ian Donaldson

When it comes to clinching the deal Vauxhall customers wants to see something for their money – and right there in the showroom works best.

So you'll quite likely be popped into the driver's seat of a new Insignia Sports Tourer and be asked to look straight ahead where, if the car has been specced right, you'll feel like a fighter pilot.

For a £290 option brings a head up display that pops speed and sat nav directions directly on to the windscreen, in your sightline and saving a distracting glance downward. Audi charges £900 for the same thing, by the way.

Wander round the rear of this new load lugger from Luton and you may find a biggish cardboard box in the boot, its 135 litres capacity being the precise increase in cargo capacity over the old Sport Tourer.

It's the sort of obvious, practical demonstration of a car's capabilities that, we're told by the men who know at Vauxhall, that makes people happy to sign on the dotted line.

Very sensible too; you may admire the looks of the new largest estate in the Vauxhall range – even spot its modest growth over the one before – but life with a car that will have to earn its living quickly boils down to practicalities.

The outgoing model wasn't quite practical enough, apparently. Too tight for legroom in the back, for starters. The new one stretches the distance between front and rear wheels to the benefit of rear seat passengers.

They now enjoy enough room for two six-footers to sit comfortably in tandem. Not quite the limo-like stretch of a Skoda Superb, though, which is actually shorter than the new Insignia but in a class of its own in space terms.

The Skoda has the Vauxhall licked on boot room too and so does the VW Passat estate but a perhaps more direct competitor, Ford's Mondeo, is smaller in the luggage bay than the Insignia with back seat up or down.

Whatever the figures show you won't declare the new Vauxhall lacking in stowage space, and worth the £1,500 lift over the Grand Sport hatchback sibling.

Swallow

The great majority will be heading for life as a company car and there's surely ample room for all the paraphernalia that goes with it.

And at weekends when the family piles on board, the Sports Tourer will swallow all the football kit for the Second XI and still have space for pizzas on the way home.

Prices start at £18,685 for a Design version with a new 1.5 litre 140 horsepower petrol engine.

Not many will go for the entry level trim but Vauxhall thinks the current swing against diesel (warranted or not) might make this petrol model surprisingly popular.

For another £795 you move up to a Design Nav spec, perhaps essential for anyone who needs to know precisely how far away the next business meeting is and when they're going to get there.

You can have a car without sat nav in the next grade up – SRi – but you wonder how many will, with prices from £21,580 for a map enabled (petrol) version.

An SRi 1.6 litre 136 horsepower diesel (£23,240) tried over a mixed route on the press launch showed 54mpg at the end in comparison to the 40mpg of the petrol car, which felt less lively too. Both rode well and felt a mostly classy place to while away hours on the road. There are plenty of cubbies and stowage places and a crisp, business-like feel to the way dials are drawn and switches placed.

The new Insignia Tourer stretches the distance between front and rear wheels to the benefit of rear seat passengers

As befits a car that must appeal to a multitude of company pecking orders, there are plenty of engines to choose from, starting with two versions of the new 1.5 petrol (140 and 165PS) and five diesels in either 1.6 or 2.0 litres capacity and power outputs from 110 to 170PS.

A 2.0 litre petrol with 260 horsepower, automatic gears and all-wheel drive is waiting in the wings but its 199g/km and eye-watering £1,200 first year's road tax are likely to keep it a rare sight. The 112g/km and £160 tax of the cleanest diesel will be a bigger pull in a market where practicalities still count.

Standard spec, or the options list, will provide Apple CarPlay and Android Auto phone integration, heated seats for outer rear passengers, powerful LED lights and even the ability to book a hotel by speaking to a real human as you drive along, via Vauxhall's OnStar service.

And your sat nav will take you straight there, of course.

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15/15	**CORSA EXCITE 1.2** 3DR FLAME RED 32,500 MILES		£6,995
15/15	**CORSA LIMITED 1.4 TURBO** 3DR FLAME RED 12,000 MILES	£8,995	£8,695
16/16	**CORSA ENERGY 1.4** 5DR FLAME RED 7,000 MILES "OUR OWN CAR"		£8,995
16/16	**CORSA LIMITED 1.4** 3DR CARBON FLASH 7,600 MILES	£9,495	£9,195
17/17	**CORSA STING 1.4** 3DR FLAME RED DELIVERY MILES LAST FEW REMAINING		£7,995
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11/11	**ASTRA SRI 1.7CDTI 125ps** 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 37,500 MILES 1 OWNER		£6,495
12/12	**ASTRA ACTIVE 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 31,500 MILES		£6,495
13/63	**ASTRA SRI 1.6** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 26,500 MILES		£7,995
14/63	**ASTRA TECHLINE 2.0CDTI** 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 31,500 MILES SAT NAV	£8,495	£7,695
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15/65	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI 140ps** 5DR CARBON FLASH 19,000 MILES		£11,695
15/65	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 1.6 CDTI** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 14,300 MILES		£11,895
13/13	**CASCADA ELITE 2.0CDTI** ASTEROID GREY 43,000 MILES LEATHER TRIM		£10,995
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14/64	**MOKKA SE 1.6** 5DR DEEP ESPRESSO 33,600 MILES LEATHER TRIM		£9,995
14/64	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6** 5DR VELVET RED 27,000 MILES	£10,495	£9,995
14/64	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.7CDTI 4X4** SOVEREIGN SILVER 44,700 MILES SAT NAV		£11,995
14/64	**MOKKA SE 1.4T** VELVET RED 16,000 MILES SAT NAV & LEATHER TRIM		£12,495
15/65	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6CDTI** 5DR CARBON FLASH 11,500 MILES	£12,995	£12,495
17/66	**MOKKA X DESIGN NAV 1.4T** SUMMIT WHITE 9,900 MILES		£15,495
17/66	**MOKKA X ELITE 1.4T AUTOMATIC** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 7,600 MILES LEATHER TRIM		£16,995
17/17	**MOKKA X ELITE NAV 1.4T** 5DR BORACAY BLUE 8,000 MILES LEATHER TRIM		£17,295
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14/14	**MERCEDES BENZ A CLASS A180 1.6 SPORT AUTO** SILVER 11,800 MILES		£16,495
15/15	**MERCEDES BENZ A CLASS A180 SE 1.6 AUTO** 5DR MET GREY 22,000 MILES		£16,395
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VAUXHALL

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, October 5, 2017

Impressive range for small price tag

By Simon Davis

You could think of the Renault Zoe as the rather hilarious little Twizy quadricycle's older sister. Whereas the Twizy is has its limitations, the Zoe is a proper car with five seats, a boot and a useable real-world electric driving range.

Not only is the Zoe a family car, it's also a zero-emissions vehicle, meaning it qualifies for the Government's full £4,500 plug-in car grant. This helps bring the Zoe's price down to a lowly £14,245, but doesn't include the mandatory monthly battery hire fee.

Renault first introduced the Zoe back in 2013. Since then, however, the electric car has been facelifted for the 2017 model year and gains a new 250-mile battery – the Z.E.40. There's also the new Signature Nav top-level trim.

This new battery is the most important update for the Zoe, however, as it dramatically increases its appeal compared with its rivals. The 250-mile range is based on the New European Driving Cycle (NEDC), however, and Renault says that in the real world this will be closer to 184 miles in summer and 124 miles in the winter.

Our test vehicle was fitted with Renault's R90 electric motor. This unit develops a modest 91bhp and 220Nm of torque, which allows for a 0-60mph time 13.3 seconds and a top speed of 84mph. This means the Zoe is considerably slower than most conventional cars, as well as the Hyundai Ioniq Electric.

However, this won't pose too much of a problem, as the Zoe will likely spend most of its time driving in busy urban environments. Here, the instant torque provided by the electric motor means you set off pretty quickly, so you won't be holding any one up at the lights.

The Zoe comes as standard with a home-charging unit, so you'll be able to replenish its batteries in as little as seven hours.

Obviously, the Zoe doesn't emit any CO2 either, so you won't have to worry about paying vehicle excise duty.

While the electric motor's instant torque will get you up to 30mph in a timely fashion – which is ideal for inner-city driving – it takes a long time to reach open road speeds. This means the Zoe isn't really cut out for long-distance motorway hauls, and its range will be a limiting factor too.

Around town, however, the Zoe is perfectly capable. There's plenty of visibility afforded by the fairly high driving position, and its relatively small size means it's easy to slot into tighter spaces.

The Zoe isn't exactly amazing dynamically, though. It's quite a tall car, so there's a fair amount of lean through the corners when pressing on. The steering is also rather vague, and it will take a bit of time to get used to the regenerative brakes, which are rather grabby. However, if you stick to low-speed city driving, you'll find the Zoe is comfortable and incredibly easy to drive.

To our eyes at least, the Zoe is quite a pretty little car. There's something very chic about its looks – which is no doubt a by-product of its French roots. With the possible exception of the Tesla Model S, the Zoe is actually one of the most attractive-looking EVs on sale today.

While it may also be one of the most affordable, it certainly doesn't look "cheap" and will look right at home when parked up on a fashionable high street.

As far as space is concerned, two adults will be able to sit in relative comfort in the back seats – although they might be a bit squashed if sat behind taller front passengers. Boot space stands at 338 litres, which is decent but falls short of its rivals. By comparison, the Hyundai Ioniq and Nissan Leaf offer 350 litres and 370 litres respectively.

The Zoe is quite a pretty little car – there's something very chic about its looks

Standard equipment is fairly generous, with even entry-level models benefitting from Renault's R-Link infotainment system and satellite navigation. Our mid-range Dynamique Nav specification test car came equipped with a hands-free key card, DAB radio, Bluetooth audio streaming and rear parking sensors.

Prices for the Renault Zoe start at just £14,245 – which is considerably lower than rivals such as the Hyundai Ioniq and Nissan Leaf, which start at £24,995 and £16,680 respectively.

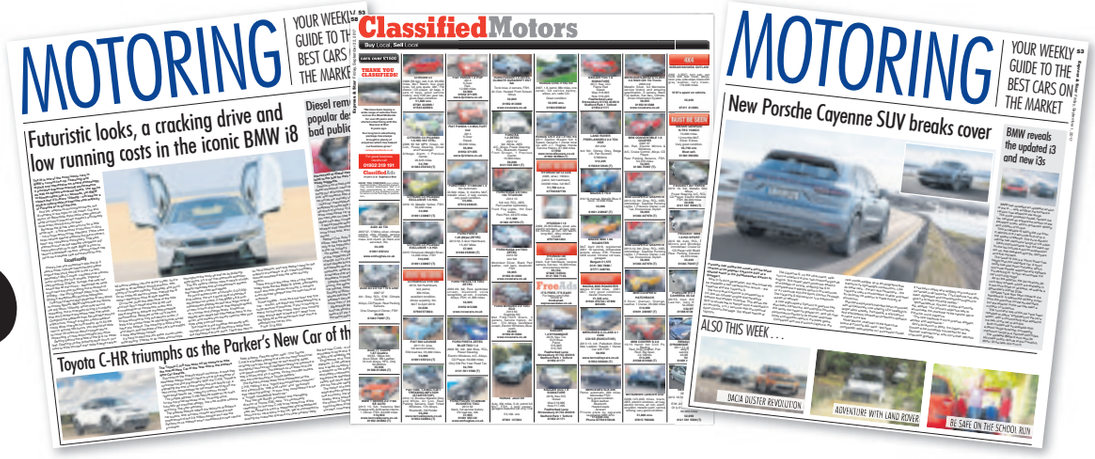
However, that price tag does not include the mandatory monthly battery hire fee, which costs upwards of £59 per month based on mileage. If you would prefer to buy the Zoe and battery outright, you'll need to part with £19,845 for the entry-level i-Expression Nav model.

The Zoe earns points for being one of the most affordable electric cars on the market. It's not going to amaze you with its dynamic abilities, but as an urban daily driver its superior range, practical interior and attractive looks make it hard to beat in this segment.

EVERY FRIDAY!

MNA

New Car?



NEW CAR OFFERS

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MOTORING

Express & Star

Expansion for family-run Oak Garage, Merry Hill

There are around 80 cars ready for viewing at any one time

Commercial feature

Expansion is always a reassuring sign that a business must be doing well. Customer demand is based on happy customers. That's exactly what you'll find at Oak Garage in Sterling Park, Merry Hill. You may have heard their ads on Black Country Radio, but if you make a visit down to their growing base in Sterling Park, you'll be able to see for yourself what's behind this growth.

It was back in 2006 that two family run businesses, Oak Garage and Imperial Cars merged together. Combining many years' experience that dated back to 1971, they are now one of the longest running family run used car sales businesses in the Midlands.

This expansion for Oak Garage means they have doubled in size, taking up two more units at the Sterling Park site, now having four of the eight units there.

It means they have around 80 cars ready for viewing at any one time, with half of their vehicles undercover and protected while prospective customers come along to see them.

Oak Garage has doubled in size

Quality Cars with the RAC Backing

The team at Oak Garage like to keep the personal touch when it comes to motor sales. For a long time now, they have specialised in one owner only cars, with a full-service history so that customers can buy with confidence. But now, you can add to that, the peace of mind that they are a RAC Approved Dealership.

All RAC Approved Dealerships sign up to giving their vehicles the 82-point RAC Approved Preparation Standard before delivery; along with a minimum of three months' RAC Warranty cover, twelve months complimentary RAC Roadside breakdown cover and enrolment to RAC Accident Management Service – that supports a motorist in the event of an accident.

The range of services they offer include setting-up finance for you. They have a choice of finance companies to approach, so you can select the deal that's just right for you. They also offer part exchange and can source cars for you too.

Expansion for Oak Garage comes because of their quality, integrity and desire to deliver customer service that goes above and beyond what's expected of others. So many happy customers can't be wrong – and the RAC agree.

● Address: Oak Garage, Sterling Park, Pedmore Road, Merry Hill, DY5 1TB.
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14	Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i Icon+ Red Only 6000 Miles	£7,795
64	Nissan Note 1.2 Acenta Premium Red Only 10000 Miles	£7,995
63	Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 CDTi Design Nav [110] Grey Only 10000 Miles	£9,495
11	Renault Grand Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto Red 11000 Miles	£4,995
14	Kia Venga Hatchback 1.6 2 Auto Silver Only 11000 MIles	£8,995
62	Skoda Fabia 1.2 TSI Elegance Maroon 11000 Miles	£7,495
Citroen		
14	Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1.6 HDi 90 Plus Blue 14k	£9,295
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14	Citroen C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive Silver 23k	£10,495
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58	Citroen C6 2.7 HDi V6 Lignage 4dr Auto White 64K	£8,995
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14	Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 e-HDi 115 Air Exclusive Red 19k	£11,995
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09	Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Zetec Black 73k	£3,995
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Nissan		
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61	Nissan QASHQAI+2 Diesel 1.5 dCi [110] Tekna White 57k	£9,995
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15	Peugeot 308 Diesel Hatchback 1.6 HDi 92 Active Red 14k	£9,295
14	Peugeot 5008 Diesel 2.0 HDi 163 Allure Auto White 50k	£10,995
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13	Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX Elite [165] Blue 32k	£7,495
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62	Vauxhall Insignia Diesel 2.0 CDTi SRi [160] Silver 69k	£6,495
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64	Vauxhall Mokka Hatchback 1.4T Tech Line Auto Red 43k	£10,995
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14	Vauxhall Zafira Tourer 1.4T Exclusiv Grey 14k	£9,995
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14	Kia Sportage Diesel Estate 1.7 CRDi ISG 1 White 20k	£12,495
08	Mazda MAZDA 6 Estate 2.0 TS2 Black 85k	£3,995
07	Mini Convertible 1.6 Cooper 2dr Red 53k	£4,995
65	Mini Hatchback 1.5 Cooper Black 16k	£12,995
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14	Skoda Yeti Estate 1.2 TSI S Grey 45k	£8,995
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Representative APR	11.5%
Total interest payable	£2,207.80
Fixed rate of interest pa	5%
Admin fee	£199.00
Option to purchase fee	£150.00

PCP Finance Example

Monthly payments	£172.80
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On the road price	£9,495.00
Customer deposit	£400.00
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Total amount payable	£12,286.90
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Total interest payable	£2,791.90
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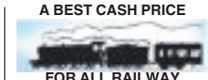

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Anything old.
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PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
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83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gas Fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664 /07969 687832

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

Guttering

PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
A*1 GUTTERING
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/ soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/ repointing work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm
01902 722447

Handyman Services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

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C I PAINTING & DECORATING Over 30 yrs experience.City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

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claire.smith@expressandstar.co.uk

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Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
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CALL M & B DECORATORS
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01902 494555

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WASP NESTS DESTROYED £50. Bed bugs, all insect pests. Telephone John on 01902 743458.

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ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

Plastering

AAA OVEN CLEANING, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

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FREE quotes & all work guaranteed.
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G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

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Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

Removals

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Removals

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
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07966 281957

A CHEAPER REMOVAL
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35
FREE QUOTES
Student/OAP Discounts

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Roofing

WH ROOFING CONTRACTORS
A backed bargain, slate, tile, flat, lead work, fascias and gutterwork,
Free Quotes
Call: 01902 561434 or 07792 817062
E:whroofingcontractor@mail.com

COMPTON ROOFING
Tiled, Slate, Flat. New and Repairs
Ridge/Hip and Verges Re-bedded.
Chimney rebuilding/repointing.
Dry ridge and hip systems
07976 419915, 01902 448032

25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

New Roofs, Slating, Tiling, GRP Flat Roofs, Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges, Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.
OVERHAUL ROOFING
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07904 736165

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AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
GRAB HIRE AND MINI DIGGER AVAILABLE
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
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Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
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www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

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Bathrooms Fitted
FREE ESTIMATES
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www.bobshomeinteriors.co.uk

Upholstery

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"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."
Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
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UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

6 Property

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
Wolverhampton properties
UP TO £25,000 CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days
0800 389 6788 01902 628047
Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week
Terms applicable

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
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www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

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Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
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I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE
• Any Price • Any Condition • Any Area
Call Paula 01384 467643
★ Local ★ Independent ★ Confdential

Let Me Buy Your House
Any house, Any Situation
Call/Text Mary on
07767 135 043
01384 686 050

Accommodation To Let

DOUBLE ROOM, in shared house, Willenhall Road. Furnished. £70pw inc bills. 07904 106847.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

PERTON modern one bed ground floor flat, with parking. Suit professional. £100pwk. 07931 939349

SMART SINGLE ROOMS in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

THREE BED large house, Bilston, garage, decorated, carpeted CH, £60pcm. 07886 781724.

Flats for sale

GROUND FLOOR
APARTMENT
Two bedroom,
Situated in the village of Penn,
Large parking area.
£108,000 ono.
01902 331155.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BIRD CAGE suitable for Budgie or Cockatiel. With Perches and feeders. £20.
07528 186840.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

PEDIGREE black and Golden Labrador Pups, dogs and bitches, £400 each. 07938 598881.

STUNNING COCKAPOO pups, all colours and genders. Ready Oct 1. Call 07891 614333 for more info.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

Accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

Commercial Premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

7 Jobs

Employment Wanted

EXPERIENCED Bricklayer requires employment. All types of brickwork. Contact 07341 021774.

Engineering

GENERAL ENGINEERING MACHINIST / MAINTENANCE FITTER required. James W Shenton Ltd 0121 557 2531.

Part Time - General

PART TIME/FULL TIME SHOE TECHNICIAN Experience essential Orthopaedic background helpful Apply with full CV to info@dsa-orthotics.co.uk or write to: Dudley Surgical Appliances Ltd, Horseley Heath, Tipton DY4 7AA.

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 30 NOV.-1 DEC. & 27-28 JAN.
STOKE: 17-18 JAN. **TELFORD:** 25-26 JAN.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 6-7 DEC. & 8-9 MARCH

Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
For more info or to book: **www.geopace.com**
HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

Full Time - General

Express & Star

BE A LOCAL **STAR**

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self - motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,360, 25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

if you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to:
HR Department Midland News Association, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
or by e-mail to: **hr@mnamedia.co.uk** **Closing date: Friday 13th October, 2017.**

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

AUDI A3 1.4 TFSI
2012, 65,000 miles, black, tinted windows and sub speaker, full service history, MoT until January 25, 2018, in good condition.
£8,000 ono.
07957 650446.

BMW 318I
2011, 79,000 miles, black, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, stereo, CD, leather interior.
£5,000 ono.
07906 423081.

FORD FIESTA STYLE +80
09 plate, 3-dr, 1242cc, Service history, very clean, MoT till August 2018, 62,000 miles,
£3,250.
07814 447682

FORD FIESTA ZETEC
2007, 1.6TDCi 64,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, fsh, alarm, long MoT. Superb condition.
£2,195.
01902 897680.

MAZDA 2007 MX5 1.8 MK III
MoT till July 2018.
59,080 miles.
Very good condition.
£3,900 ono.
01902 333072.

MINI 1.4 PETROL
2007, 3 door, 96,122 miles, metallic blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, fsh, alarm, alloy wheels, radio/CD player. 6 months MoT.
£1,750 ono.
01384 872846.

NISSAN MICRA
2010, 93,000 miles, 11 months MoT, fsh, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, one owner, pas, alloys, CD, built in Sat Nav and Bluetooth.
£2,000 ono.
07786 988292.

4X4

NISSAN NAVARA OUTLAW
2009, 2.5DCi, twin cab, van truck with rear cover, alloys, new tyres, side steps, black with grey leather, EW, SR, very clean, 179,000 miles.
££££'s spent on vehicle.
£5,995
07411 414284.

PEUGEOT 308 SPORTIUM 1.6
5 door. 2011 (11).
Two owners from new.
FSH (74,000 miles).
Full MoT. Alloys.
A/C. Immaculate throughout.
£2,995.
Telephone 07970 705466.

RENAULT KANGOO DIESEL
2004, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, fsh, long MoT, central locking, one owner, pas, sunroof, CD, aircraft lockers, load cover, very good condition.
£1,599.
07879 403302.

PEUGEOT 206CC ALLURE
2005, 55 plate 46,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, full service history, alarm, MoT. Amazing condition.
£1,695.
01902 897680.

MUST BE SEEN

TOYOTA YARIS 1.3
2005, 5dr hatchback.
2 lady owners from new.
full MoT, recently serviced.
Service history.
Immaculate condition.
£1,650.
07467 562680.

VAUXHALL TIGRA CONVERTIBLE
1.8 litre, 2009, 24,000 miles, ice blue metallic, heated leather seats, long MoT, alarm, service history, reluctant sale.
£1,995 ono.
01384 287428.

VW POLO
1.2 S, 2006, 57000 Miles, One Owner, Full Service History, Brilliant Condition, 2 Keys, Alloys, A/C.
£2,495 ono
07977 939497

Cars Under £1500

FORD FIESTA
2001, 82,000 miles, Black,
MoT, CD player,
new exhaust and clutch, overall good condition, must see.
£300 ono.
07574 285330.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE DCI
2005(55), 99,950 miles, silver, abs, e/w, alarm, MoT Sept 2018, central locking, pas, diesel, sunroof, alloys, CD. Good condition.
£995 ono.
07411 236615.

MUST BE SEEN

SKODIA OCTAVIA DIESEL
Red, much loved, reliable Family car.
Spacious with a good service history, 55 plate, 107,000 miles, MoT to August 2018, one owner since new.
SOLD

Classic Cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

Driving Tuition

AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

A BETTER PRICE
for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.
NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD
Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

spares & accessories

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE
Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!!
Ring for quotes
30 yrs experience
ALL AREAS COVERED
Call Bob
01384 251328
07972 169554
anytime

Spares/Parts

THULE HIRE & SALES Roof Boxes, Roof Bars and Cycle carriers. Best Prices. **Wolves Hire 01902 746723 WV6 0LE**

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

WANTED ROVER 214
1995,Three door SEi Night fire red, electric windows, fsh, metallic paint, sunroof
01234 261531

9 Local Information

Public & Legal Notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for a *Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act)/*Club Premises Certificate (Section 71 of the Act)

Notice is hereby given that Sukhdev Berik of News 2U, Unit L50, Merryhill Shopping Centre, DY5 1QX has applied to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for a premises licence for the following licensable activities:

Sale of Alcohol from 08.00am – 00.00 Midnight.

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section between the hours of 08.00am and 4.00pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays) An online summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by a Responsible Authority of Interested Party must be made in writing between 05/10/2017 and 02/11/2017 to Assistant Director of Law and Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill, DY5 1UF.

It is an offence for anyone knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

LILY WORWOOD (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Russell Court Care Home Overfield Road Dudley West Midlands DY1 2NY, who died on 18/02/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 07/12/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
COATES SOLICITORS
62-64 High Street Mosborough
Sheffield S20 5AE T512508

10 Personals

Personal

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 01216 202445 for full details. Discretion assured!

HELLO LADIES
Retired gentleman 60's
Honest, loyal, genuine, tall, average build, car owner, modern, happy guy, GSOH, likes most things in life WLTM slim to average genuine lady for dates and possible romance, approx 10 mile radius of Stourbridge.
Box Number P20966 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE MID 60's
Slimish, likes sports, countryside.
WLTM Country type lady, slim. For companionship, hopefully leading to spending rest of lives together.
Box Number P20972 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOW RETIRED
Would like to meet male/female Friends for holidays, weekends away, days out, Wednesfield and surrounding areas.
Box Number P20971 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR region***

Try it.. You'll love it!

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:

0844 381 5936

follow the simple instructions. You will also get ***£10 SMS CHAT CREDIT***

To ***Place*** your ad by text

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098 FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:

http://dating.expressandstar.com

To ***Reply*** to members call:

0906 500 3955

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:

Text... **REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 **hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:

0906 500 3957

calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

TRACY, dark eyed brunette, 39, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428783**

I am a discreet married black lady who is hoping to meet a man of any colour for some daytime chats, maybe meet up, maybe just text to prolong the interest in our ways. **Text Only. Box 4063856**

DAWN, attractive, easygoing, WLTM mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428417**

GEORGINA, 46yrs, sophisticated professional lady (teacher), quite firm but kind! Interested in finding out more? I am interested to chat to you so call me today. **Text Only. Box: 4151593**

LINDA, attractive fun loving, pretty 43yr old, confident but not pushy, looking to enjoy good times with male 40plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428883**

SASKA, kind hearted Asian lady, single and still living with family so seeking very discreet relationship with strong minded man. I am 29yrs but like mature experienced men. **Text Only. Box: 4047094**

CARING, thoughtful, young at heart lady, 70s, seeking tall, slim, caring guy with GSOH, for a relaxed friendship and outings. Car driver would be nice. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428871**

MIA, attractive married lady from Birmingham are, looking to meet a discreet gent, any age, any area for fun times. I am 49yrs old but look younger. **Text Only. Box: 4079581**

FEMALE 46. honest, genuine and caring. Looking for LTR with a male. **Text only replies. Box no: 4209465**

TINA, 47yrs, GSOH and good figure with average looks. I want a similar man, GSOH looks unimportant. Age is but a number. I have no car but can accommodate. **Text Only. Box: 4145368**

TRACY, dark eyed brunette, 39, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428783**

JANE, new to area, hoping to meet an older gent. I am 38yrs, brunette with boyish leggy figure. N/S with GSOH. I've a good job and small flat which I own. **Text Only. Box: 4099268**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

FRANCESCA 50s, lively blue eyed blonde, many interests, WLTM similar young at heart romantic male for amazing fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428755**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715**

MARY 46, shy curvy brunette looking for someone to be a good fun friend, to laugh with and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428073**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

SUSANNA, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428661**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 45yrs, loves animals, music, socialising. If you have similar interests then call or text me. Lets meet up and spend time together. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428811**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

TAKE a chance on me. Beryl, honest black lady. Seeking a gent 50-75 ish. who will treat me with respect. I will be respectful to you, mutual fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428809**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

CAROL 49, feminine lady WLTM optimistic fun male to see what the future brings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428577**

MICHELLE, 44yrs, attractive lady, great company, hoping to meet mature gent 50+ for loving relationship. ACA/Text answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428803**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

SUE, attractive lady, genuine with many interests. I'm attractive with feminine curves. If you are a caring loving man under 70yrs call me for good times. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428801**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

IF you want to meet a mature busty blonde lady then look no further. Call me, I'm interested in meeting a man who wants a physical relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428799**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533**

SUSAN, articulate interesting lady, 60yrs, loves countryside and music. Hoping to meet a genuine man of any age. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428797**

ANGELA, attractive 66yr old free minded and spirited lady. Genuine with varied interests seeks gent 65+. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428485**

SUSANNA, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428661**

CHARLOTTE 33, classy curvy blonde looking for something a bit different WLTM kind, loving, fit male for some fun and excitement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428563**

MARIA 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447**

KATHERINE 39, romantic, slim, feminine, loves to live life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428403**

PAT, 69, young looking, looking for someone for friendship, interests are going out for meals, reading and walking. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428461**

HEATHER, 54yrs, slim brunette with petite figure, loves keep fit. Seeks chap for nights out, fun times, must be honest and kind. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428491**

VICTORIA, 46yrs, bubbly outgoing nurse, pete pretty brunette. WLTM N/S man, any age, must have GSOH and be kind. ACA. Or text. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428489**

MARIA 44, leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428447**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

CARING, young at heart lady seeks tall caring gent with GSOH for friendship, outings and car drives. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042252**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with like-minded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427753**

SUE, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTM someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549**

TERESA, friendly lady with GSOH, curvy build and attractive looks, 50 something, seeking romantic male 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428383**

ARE you a gent with GSOH 60-70 and looking for some fun then call me, Leah, I'm 57yrs, slim, attractive and looking for fun. ACA. Or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428381**

JANE, 52yrs genuine blue eyed blonde lady WLTM romantic gent for potential relationship. ACA/Text answered so please reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428379**

MARGARET, attractive blonde widow, living alone and hoping to find a nice gentleman soulmate. I have lots to offer so please call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428375**

JOY, mid 50s independent lady, brunette, loves dining out, seeking gent of any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428373**

ATTRACTIVE widow, loves life, 60s music, walking and fun. Hoping to meet a similar minded gent 60-80 for life's adventures. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428371**

NICOLA, 37yrs mixed race beauty, just moved to the area from London so a bit lonely. Looks unimportant must have GSOH and be kind. ACA/text answered **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428369**

WANTED, submissive gent by attractive lady 51yrs, please call if you want to know more. Ata **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428367**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young at heart, would like to meet genuine caring guy for coffee and chats, plus days out. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6035338**

SALLY young 50, happy go lucky blonde, looking to let her hair down with a happy, down to earth guy with dark hair. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428269**

ATTRACTIVE lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428157**

CHRISTINE, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428155**

MALE 20s, chilled out and happy in life looking for woman to share life with. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6034839**

MIKE, male, 61, seeks black or Asian lady, any age for adult fun, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6010228**

MALE, late 60s, N/S, retired, 5ft9, slim build, enjoys holidays abroad, weekends away, travel, meals out. Looking to meet female, N/S, who enjoys similar interests, to share good times together, for friendship and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428219**

JEFF, 60s, tall, fit, young outlook, N/S, car owner, seeks similar lady for friendship, outings out etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428175**

SINGLE dad, tall, blonde hair, good looking, keeps fit, loves the cinema, meals out, looking for a single lady for date nights. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428163**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, genuine lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

HI my name is Jay. I'm looking for a lady to have a lovely evening with, maybe once or twice a week. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427927**

JACK 23, single, tall, young looking guy, kind and respectful, seeking female age/looks not important for mutual NSA fun. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026038**

MALE 64, fit, non-smoker, looking for NSA fun with lady, any age. I am kind and caring but miss the touch of a woman. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6025714**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 56, 6ft, WLTM an attractive female, any age, for discreet fun and intimate times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428109**

I am Kev, 57, looking for a lady in my life. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6023170**

SHAUN, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, employed, animal lover, likes walks in the country, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497**

GENTLEMAN, kind, considerate, tactile, thoughtful and caring, hobbies include growing fuschias and vintage tractors, looking for a country girl, someone with no plans of grandeur. Truth and trust number 1 as I trust you so you tell me the truth, and vice versa. Looking for someone to hold and love forever. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427791**

SINGLE male, 43, looking for female friends for txt, phone chats, maybe more. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6017886**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, 50, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783**

Single Men

HI I am a single Indian male in my 50s, and would like to meet a mature female 55+ for a NSA friendship. **Text only replies. Box no: 4627019**

WALSALL male, looking for no strings adult fun, with lady of any nationality, colour or age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428773**

MALE, age 68, very active looking for lady for NSA fun. Can accommodate. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6026972**

EASYGOING likeable man likes a drink at the pub, and nights in front of the telly and a cuddle, looking for lady 45-55. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6066059**

DERBY male, young 57, looking for uncared, unloved married woman looking for discreet adult fun 35-55. Txt me for a good time. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5321154**

MALE seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695**

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MALE would like to meet local female 50/60 for mutual friendship. I'm easygoing and have many interests. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5071056**

COLIN 72, from Burntwood, looking for loving lady for days out, holidays and company. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 4880436**

MALE, 20s, seeks NSA fun with female. I love a laugh, age isn't important. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6042304**

MALE 46, genuine and honest and very caring looking for a LTR with lady. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 5422168**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

FUN loving Irish man, seeks relationship, for fun times and going out. Please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428077**

MALE, 47, fit, slim, honest man, seeking nice, slim, honest lady for LTR, going out for drinks and having good times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427923**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

MALE, dark hair, dark eyes, slim, 47, likes walking, camping, pubs, dancing, looking for a slim, honest lady, for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427831**

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MALE 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945**

HI my name is Ben. I am 43 years old, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, looking for a bored similar lady for naughty texting. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 6007244**

PHIL 55, divorced, 5ft 10ins, slim, OHAC, seeks female, 18 plus for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401875**

GAY attractive feminine female would like to meet other gay feminine females for friendship possible relationship. Get in touch. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6062854**

Just Friends

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

GILLIAN late 60s, wishes to meet a sincere gent, straight or gay for friendship only. Varied interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 428669**

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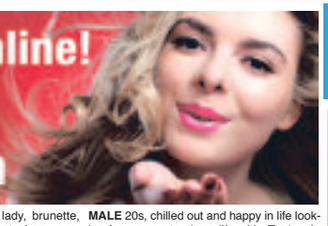

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Fan favourite Lescott makes return to city

JOLEON Lescott is on his way back to Wolverhampton for a special night with fans in December. Lescott remains a popular figure in the city thanks to his time at Wolves where he started his career after joining as a trainee.

He was part of the Wolves side which won promotion to the Premier League for the first time in their history in 2003 at Cardiff and played more than 220 games before moving to Everton. He will talk about his career and meet fans at the Cleveland Arms, Stow Heath Lane, on December 7.

After three years on Merseyside, Lescott went on to win two Premier League titles, an FA Cup and a League Cup at Manchester City before spells back in the West Midlands at Albion and Villa.

It will be the first time the former England international, who won 24 caps, has done a stage appearance and he will be alongside former Wolves promotion-winning team-mate Matt Murray. VIP tickets, to include a meet and greet, buffet, priority seating and signed photo, are on sale at clevelandarms.com or the venue, by phone 01902 451021. Standard tickets are £12.

Heathens heroes sign up for Golden Hammer

TWO modern-day Cradley heroes are already on board for the 2017 F.A.S.T Golden Hammer on October 23.

Ashley Morris and Max Clegg are the first two riders confirmed for the famous individual event taking place at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green at 7.30pm.

Current captain Tom Perry is also expected to be a part of the line-up. Heathens club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We're delighted we can now round off the year with the Golden Hammer.

"Having Ash and Max as the first two confirmed names is a great way to start building the line-up."

He added: "We've been able to schedule it for the Monday of the half-term school holidays and therefore we are delighted to offer free admission to children aged 12 and under."

Admission prices are £15 for adults, concessions £10, £5 for 13-to-18-year-olds and free for under-12s.

Doyle retires over concussion fears

FORMER Wolves striker Kevin Doyle has announced his retirement from football – after repeated incidents of concussion. The 34-year had been playing in the MLS for Colorado Rapids and took advice from consultants.

Republic of Ireland international Doyle was Wolves' record signing when he moved to Molineux for £6.5million from Reading at the start of the 2009/10 season.

Doyle played a starring role as Mick McCarthy's side avoided relegation from the Premier League, scoring nine goals in 34 appearances. He would stay with the club until 2015 when, after loan spells with Crystal Palace and QPR, he signed for Colorado. In all he netted 33 times in 179 Wolves games, his most memorable goal arguably the winner in a famous 2-1 victory over Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United in 2011.

In a statement, Doyle said heading the ball had become 'problematic' and that two concussions this season alone have forced him to take medical advice.

Andrew Wilcoxson (back right) and his current squad on a recent European tour

Star line-up for a photo call during the 1988/89 campaign

Star's still shining bright 60 years on

SIX decades on from their formation, Charlemont Star continue to give their players the chance to shine.

The amateur football club, based in West Bromwich, celebrated their 60th anniversary recently at Dartmouth Golf Club, where current and former players joined to share tales of their time with the Star.

They were formed in 1957 by Garth Thomas, who died in 2015. Over the years he retained a keen interest in the goings on and was kept regularly updated.

An extract from Thomas' memoirs read: "Up until I was 23 my routine was to have a kick about with local teenagers at Bird End. Gradually those got longer, so one Saturday afternoon in July the lads suggested we start a team. Though at the time I only gave it a week or so believing it would be a seven-day novelty."

The club have been blessed with commitment and consistent management, firstly under Thomas, before Baz Plant took up the reins in the 1980s. Current boss Andrew Wilcoxson joined the club in the mid 1990s, managing alongside Dave Stocking and Richard Cox, and has been sole manager since Star's reformation in 2010 following a brief break.

Secured

The club originally competed in the West Bromwich Sunday League, later named the Sandwell League. They regularly went toe-to-toe with rivals The Bush, Wones United, Prince Regent, White Swan and Churchfield Tavern in their early years.

For the most part of their existence, Charlemont's home base has been Hydes Road playing fields in Wednesbury. They have just secured permission to return to Churchfields playing fields in West Bromwich for the current campaign. Hamstead Hill has also been another home. An array of former players returned for the club's latest milestone celebration.

Plant, a retired schoolteacher, 60, who played and managed for around 15 years, said: "When

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

"It's giving lads the opportunity to play. It's organised. All they have to do is turn up and play."

I joined there were various characters from the around the Stone Cross and Charlemont area. John Garnzarek, who has sadly died, Keith Willets, Jimmy Young – they were the main characters, and they welcomed me whole-heartedly with Garth.

"Garth was larger than life in more ways than one. A big guy, 20 stone plus. I had a yellow Mini when I started and he got in it and buckled the car door.

"We'd regularly finish seventh or eight in the league. We never got relegated despite finishing so low, even when finishing bottom! It's fantastic at the moment. The job that Andy's done is absolutely brilliant."

Wilcoxson described moving to the Birmingham Festival League as 'a shot in the arm' for the club. Star enjoyed success at the turn of the millennium, gaining promotion to Division Two alongside a couple of handy cup runs in the Birmingham County FA Junior Cup.

Their only time out of action was a brief break of four seasons between 2006 and 2010 before Wilcoxson launched the club again, attracting a new squad that entered the West Midlands Christian Football League.

In seven years they have provided opportunities to hundreds of youngsters both in the region and, remarkably for a local amateur side with one member of staff, on the continent.

Star head out on an annual European tour. Since their reformation they have been away to Germany, Austria and Norway, facing local sides from their European counterparts.

Star have forged close bonds with Bremen outfits TV Bremen-Walle and Bremer SV, whom they have played twice. They have also gone up against FT Gern, a youth club of German international Phillip Lahm, and Didi Hamann's ex-club FC Wacker Munchen.

The tours, organised by their boss, remain an attractive proposition to players, who enjoy both the social and competitive aspect of the club's set-up. They head out to Leipzig in Germany next May.

Wilcoxson, 48, from Telford, said: "It's giving lads the opportunity to play. It's organised. All they have to do is turn up and play. Everything's provided for them. They are grateful, they don't express it too often, it's nice when they say they appreciate what you do.

Dedication

"I don't want 'thank yous' and praise, you make memories and friends. It was nice at Garth's funeral with how many former members attended.

"Without Garth's commitment and dedication to the club it would have folded many years ago. There wouldn't be a Charlemont Star. He was always interested and helped us financially."

Oh his jet-setting side, the boss added: "Many of the games stick in my mind because they're good, competitive matches. Then there's the memories and camaraderie with our hosts after the games.

"The standard of football there, at amateur level, is well-organised but player-for-player, they're close. Though we've picked a few anomalies where they've been quite a bit better than us!"

The future looks bright for Star, who are sponsored by Attewell Opticians and also the Red Lion pub in West Bromwich, with whom they have just struck a new partnership.

The club are always on the lookout for new players, and are particularly in search for a goalkeeper for the current campaign. Anybody interested in supporting, sponsorship, coaching or playing can contact Wilcoxson by emailing ajwilco@sky.com.

Sport

Star players! Club shines bright after 60 years

Page 47

Boss claims future bleak for Heathens

FEARS are rising over the future of Cradley Heathens.

Hot on the heels of club director Nigel Pearson hinting at a winter exit from the club after eight years at the helm, co-boss Gary Patchett says next season's plans could be out of their hands.

The reborn Heathens who made a stunning return to the sport, sharing with Wolverhampton and Birmingham in 2010. But with no immediate prospect of a home to call their own next year, track sharing is again the only option.

It could mean that their final two meetings – both at Monmore – against Eastbourne on October 16 and the FAST Golden Hammer a week later could be their final action of the modern era.

"They were difficult this year, but we pulled a rabbit out of the hat with the double-headers, which have been reasonably successful," said Patchett.

"But running at Birmingham isn't much fun for the supporters. We are grateful for the fact that we were able to race there, but it's hard.

"And with the likelihood of new owners at Birmingham, then they could be running two teams there.

"We may be putting two and two together and coming up with five, but it may be that Perry Barr is not an option.

"Then we have the AGM to come and from what I'm hearing, and with Lakeside looking to return to the Premiership, they may come up with a 10-team league and four more home fixtures for Wolves. That's four more Mondays we can't have. We might be scuppered."

Bishop first back for blue hoops in home race Shocker

ATHLETES from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club didn't have to travel far to race at the weekend. In fact the distance from the club to the venue was actually shorter than the race itself, prompting some to run from the club to the race, run it hard, and then run back.

The venue was Enville Hall and the race was the 10k Action Heart promoted Sheepwalks Shocker.

With the race on the doorstep there were plenty of blue hoops in attendance. Darran Bishop put his marathon training to good use coming home in 10th place in 41.34 with Dave Norman in 16th in 43.49. Helen Tromans put her excellent ability to descend quickly to good use to win the ladies race in 45.49, taking 25th place overall. Andrew Weaver was 57th in 50.48, Hannah McGuire finished in 53.52 to take 91st place, Carol Fisher was 125th in 56.49, Jane Campbell 190th in 1.03.01 and Tracey O'Donoghue was 262nd in 1.11.05 with Karen Flint finishing a position behind in the same time.

Elsewhere, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker claimed 5844 place in the Cardiff Half marathon in a time of 1.57.55.

Glassboys go second after cup progress

Stourbridge 2 Coalville 1

STOURBRIDGE moved up to second in the Evo-Stik Premier thanks to Jordan Archer's last-minute winner on Monday night.

It looked as if the Glassboys would have to settle for a point until Archer controlled a pass from substitute Danny O'Callaghan and rifled home as the game entered stoppage time.

Stourbridge, who had won eight of their last 10 in all competitions heading into the match, took the lead in the 34th minute, Matt Dodd firing home. Coalville equalised eight minutes into the second period as Lee Cox finished off Blair Anderson's cross at the back post.

Stourbridge 3 Alfreton 1

STOURBRIDGE will entertain Macclesfield in the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup on October 14.

Progress was made on Saturday thanks in no small part to referee Scott Simpson, who sent off two Alfreton players in the opening 24 minutes.

The National League North side saw Tom Allan and Bradley Wood dismissed before Tom Tonks fired home a 20-yard free-kick for the opener.

Stourbridge increased the lead on 57 minutes, Josh Green netting from close range. But Alfreton were thrown a lifeline six minutes later when Glassboys defender Darryl Westlake was judged to have handled and former Walsall player Craig Westcarr converted from the spot.

It led to a nervous finish before long-serving Leon Broadhurst headed home with three minutes left.

DK HOPES GO FOR A BURTON

DK 10 Burton 41

DK slumped to a second successive defeat – Burton running out comfortable winners – despite the hosts putting the first two scores on the board.

The Heathbrook crowd were buoyant after the first quarter as DK enjoyed all the early possession and were rewarded with a Pete Griffiths try.

Then, one of those pieces of skill that lights a rainy afternoon. Nic Adams collected a Burton clearance, chipped over the onrushing defenders and then caught it, running clear for the line for a second try.

The weather was worsening, it had gone from pouring, to heavy, and was approaching monsoon, even with the superb Heathbrook surface the weather was starting to have an increasing influence on the course of the game.

Burton got onto the scoreboard, as DK failed to deal with the slippery ball and Harris Mountford pounced. The try was converted.

Leroy Bitterhout scored in the corner for Burton to take the lead and after Pete Griffiths was yellow carded, Burton skipper Jack Neal drove over and the referee awarded the try.

The third quarter saw the DK task get much harder, still down to 14 men Burton quickly added another try. Back to 15, DK started to show glimpses that they may get back into the game, a fine run by Stef Shillingford, almost resulted in a try and some fine defence ensued to show DK were still in the game.

Their slender hopes of mounting a comeback suffered a knock, however, when Burton number 8 Dan Taylor crossed for a converted try to make the score 29-10.

In final quarter Burton were able to add two tries to finally, run out 41-10 winners.

DK are without a fixture this weekend, after playing a double header with Bromsgrove last week, so the coaches and medical staff will be looking to get some of the missing players back into contention before the next game, away at Camp Hill.

Stef Shillingford on the charge for Dudley Kingswinford

Bottom side Yeltz collapse after early lead

Halesowen 1 Workington 5

ROCK bottom Halesowen started brightly but collapsed to a 5-1 thumping defeat.

The Yeltz took a fifth minute lead when Daniel Udoh hit a hard, low shot past Aaran Taylor from 20 yards.

But Workington gradually took control to establish a half-time lead. Scott Allison slotted home his seventh goal of the season after 35 minutes and the Reds were in front just four minutes later when Jack Egan looped home a header off the post following terrible confusion between goalkeeper Dan Platt and his defender Jack Kelly.

The Yeltz defence fell apart again after the interval as Workington hit two more goals in the first six minutes. Conor Tinnion sliced an initial shot, but Egan was on hand to slam home his second goal into the roof of the net after 48 minutes. Workington's fourth goal was a real cracker when David Symington smashed home a 51st minute volley.

Jordan Holt completed Yeltz's misery in stoppage time.

Byfield is in home corner at The Venue

HOMETOWN favourite Les Byfield will undertake a six-rounder when professional boxing returns to The Venue in Dudley later this month.

He will share top billing with Lichfield's Brad Foster on the 'Knocked For Six' bill at the High Street venue on Friday, October 20.

It will mark Byfield's first step up from four rounds, while Foster returns to the ring for a third straight six-rounder.

Netherton's Byfield, aged 30, is again set to take on long-haul campaigner Andy Harris, after a first meeting between the two super featherweights was postponed.

'The Minefield' has been out of action for three months waiting to take on the 35-year-old veteran from Gloucestershire, who has 56 pro bouts under his belt.

He is still unbeaten in seven outings after a draw with Brett Fidoe on June 24. He's won six times, with a first round TKO in one victory.

Birmingham's Kane Baker and Walsall's Shaun Cooper will also occupy the home corner for four-round contests, with further bouts still to be added.

Tickets, priced at £35 and £50 ringside with waitress service, are available now by calling 07976 283 157. Alternatively, contact any of the boxers in the home corner on Facebook.

At Walsall Town Hall last weekend, Kingswinford super welterweight, Danny Ball recorded a points win over MJ Hall.

Eggington named young boxer of year

SAM EGGINGTON has been named the Boxing Writers' Club's Young Boxer of the Year.

The 23-year-old welterweight, from Stourbridge, finished ahead of super-featherweight Zelfa Barrett in the poll for 2017's award.

Eggington impressively ended the career of former world champion Paulie Malignaggi in March and in May stopped Spain's Ceferino Rodriguez in 10 rounds to win the European title. He defends his title tomorrow night (Friday) against Mohamed Mimoune of France and receives his award at the organisation's 66th annual dinner on Sunday.

★★★

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